

HOME NEWS

Conservatives promise resistance to Bill aimed at curbing comprehensive education 'rebels'

By Tim Devlin
Education Correspondent

A new stage in government supremacy over local education authorities was initiated yesterday with the publication of the details of a Bill requiring education authorities in England and Wales to go comprehensive.

It is primarily aimed at compelling seven resisting education authorities and 29 other reluctant ones to submit immediate plans to get rid of selection. If they do not, they face being issued with a writ and taken to the High Court.

The Bill also requires education authorities to get government permission before taking up places at independent schools. It enables the Secretary of State for Education and Science to compel voluntary grammar schools to submit organization proposals. But there is a provision to protect voluntary schools if they cannot afford the cost of new buildings as part of going comprehensive.

The Conservative Party yesterday promised to use all its powers to defeat the Bill. If it could not do that, it promised to remove its worst features in the committee stages.

Mr St John-Stevas, Opposition spokesman for education, science and the arts, said: "The proposals constitute a rash, dangerous and draconian attack on the 1944 education settlement. Mr Mulley [Secretary of State for Education and Science] appears to have taken leave of his senses and as a stroke has put at risk the constitutional and religious settlement enshrined in the Education Act of 1944 and other subsequent Acts."

He accused Mr Mulley of being blind to the wishes of parents, the liberties of local education authorities and to the need for adequate financial resources if "comprehensive schools are to be more than hatched-up shams."

He said the independence of voluntary schools (which are mostly run by church foundations) had been killed. The clause subjecting the right of local authorities to take up places at independent schools to ministerial control subverted the 1944 settlement.

He continued: "Mr Mulley is setting himself up as a mini-Mussolini. I believe there will be a spontaneous upsurge of resistance to these dictatorial proposals from parents, educationists, teachers and councillors throughout the country."

Mr Ronald Bell, Conservative MP for Beaconsfield, said: "There is not a word in this Bill about parents or their freedom to choose. He said they would resist such mean-spirited and self-righteous dogmatism, and predicted that it might be the issue on which the Government could be defeated."

He said: "Harold Wilson has been a very lucky man in the last 11 months to keep his majority. Once they lose their majority on the standing committees anything could happen."

The first clause of the Bill requires local authorities to have regard to the general principle that secondary education is to be provided only in common schools. Excluded from that are schools for the physically and mentally handicapped and for music or dancing.

The second clause requires local education authorities to submit proposals to get rid of selection. It also extends the Bill to cover voluntary grammar schools. That would require local education authorities to consult the governors of those schools and, if requested, to put forward the governors' proposals about their future to the Secretary of State.

The third clause promises that the Secretary of State shall not approve the proposals if the school's governors satisfy him that they cannot afford the expenses involved in re-organization.

The provision preventing local education authorities from taking up places at independent schools will not affect children already at those schools.

Another provision in the Bill extends students' grants that must be awarded as of right to those studying courses for the higher diploma of the new Technician Education Council and Business Education Council.

The seven local education authorities resisting the Government's request to submit plans to go comprehensive are: Buckinghamshire, Essex, Trafford, in Greater Manchester, and the London boroughs of Bexley, Kingston, Redbridge and Sutton. All have said that if the request is backed by law, they will have to comply.

Another 29 authorities have been unable to assure the Secretary of State that they could end selection by the end of the decade.

In January 1975, there were 2,457,000 pupils, more than two thirds of the secondary school population, in 2,593 comprehensive schools.

Leading article, page 15



Christmas poultry. Turkeys being plucked at a poultry farm in Essex. An EEC directive says that from 1977 plucking must be done in special processing sheds, and that the sale of freshly plucked turkeys containing entrails must cease altogether after Christmas, 1980.

The National Farmers' Union said last night that it was giving freshly plucked turkeys to as many MPs as possible. "We are not trying to bribe them. We are trying to bring this situation to their notice," Mr Donald Avery, NFU poultry committee chairman said. He said the threat of the EEC directive had brought a cutback

of a million fresh turkeys already this year. The NFU yesterday gave turkeys to Mr Peart, Minister of Agriculture, and Mr Michael Joplin, his opposition colleague. Both passed them on to charity. Mr Edward Short, Leader of the House, denied that the from 1977 fresh poultry would "virtually disappear from our markets".

Pay bed ballot for consultants

By John Roper
Medical Reporter

There is to be a ballot of the 11,000 consultants in the National Health Service on the Government's compromise proposals on the phasing out of pay beds and the future of private practice.

The decision was taken yesterday by the Central Committee for Hospital Medical Services, representing all consultants. The result of the ballot is not expected until about mid-January; in the meantime the consultants will continue to treat only emergency cases.

Dr Derek Stevenson, secretary of the British Medical Association, said last night that the Government's proposals, reached after 12 days of discussions, will be sent out with "an absolutely fair commentary on what they mean" on the result of accepting or rejecting. "We shall let the profession judge," he said.

The ballot paper would contain two questions: Are you prepared to accept these proposals? If not, are you prepared to let us have your undivided resignations from the NHS?

It is hoped to post the ballot papers, which have yet to be printed, by January 7.

Dr Stevenson said the committee realized that the proposals provided a lifeline if, in fact, the Government went ahead and enacted its proposed legislation to separate private practice from the health service. In the debate many members of the committee expressed disappointment that the issue was not to go to the Royal Commission on the National Health Service.

Mr Anthony Graham, chairman of the committee, said they were keeping their options open. If there was no clear majority they would have to assess the situation.

In his view the Government's proposals did provide some pro-

tection for the independence of the profession and for the freedom of patients; but they still allowed separation of private practice from the NHS, which the profession had maintained all along was harmful.

The Hospital Consultants and Specialists Association, which represents about 5,000 consultants and has supported the BMA in its opposition to the proposed legislation, decided yesterday that clarification and amendment of the government proposals were needed before they could recommend approval of them. The association was not recommending continued industrial action while further talks were held.

Junior doctors' leaders yesterday met Dr Owen, Minister of State for Health, to discuss clarification of the agreement reached on their contract. On the result of those discussions the juniors will decide whether to call off their industrial action.

Tory plan to save air industry

By Arthur Reed

Dismissing government plans to nationalize the aircraft industry as a "total irrelevance", a Bow Group pamphlet published today advocates the formation of a national aerospace development council, with members drawn from the highest levels of government and industry.

The council would consider what proportion of the gross national product should be devoted to the industry, and establish the state between research and development, expenditure, innovating expenditure, and production expenditure, the group says.

The council would develop policies designed to encourage and support different sections of the industry: the aircraft engines and equipment sections.

That would produce an improvement on the "miserable cycle of events" that led to Britain throwing away technological skill.

The Bow Group adds that the Secretary of State for Industry would normally take the chair at the council's meetings. The Secretaries of State for Defence and Trade would be members, with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, leaders of trade unions, chairmen of aircraft, engine and equipment companies, Service chiefs, chairmen of the domestic airlines, and directors of the Society of British Aircraft Companies and the chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority.

The industry would benefit from rationalization and co-operation between the companies, but nationalization was totally irrelevant and completely unnecessary. There was no need to spend £250m of public money to bring the companies together. Nationalization would not sell one more British aircraft.

The fact is that too many people in the industry now support nationalization against their better judgment because they see it as a way of keeping their jobs, and because they have gained the impression that the Conservative Party is hell-bent on trimming the industry down and reducing the role of subcontractors to the world. Nothing could be further from the truth."

'New Statesman' gets new political correspondent

Mr James Fenton has been appointed political correspondent of the *New Statesman* in succession to Mr Alan Watkins who is leaving to take up a similar post with *The Observer*.

Mr Anthony Howard, editor of the weekly journal, expressed pleasure yesterday that Mr Fenton was only 26, the age at which he had been appointed to the same job in 1961 by Mr John Freeman.

Mr Fenton, who will take up the post early next month, will receive an annual salary of about £4,000. His political column is likely to concentrate more on parliamentary sketch writing than that of his predecessor.

It was also announced yesterday that Mr Arthur Marshall will take over the "First Person" column in the *New Statesman* on January 2, when its present occupant, Mr Auberon Wauchope, joins *The Spectator*.

Broadmoor for woman
Sandra Millett, aged 22, who strangled her flat-mate at Banbury, Oxfordshire, was sent to Broadmoor indefinitely by Worcester Crown Court yesterday.

Mental hospital closure plan 'wishful thinking'

By Our Medical Correspondent

Government plans for closing large mental hospitals are unrealistic in present circumstances, a report in the *British Medical Journal* says today.

A census of patients at Tooting Bec Hospital, one of London's largest mental hospitals, showed that more than half would probably never be discharged, and two fifths had spent more than eight years as permanent inpatients.

Plans by the Department of Health and Social Security for phasing out large mental hospitals seem to have relied too much on wishful thinking and too little on evidence, the report says. "It would be more realistic to accept that chronic mental illness, including chronic mental illness, will continue, and that in considering priorities in future it might be better to concentrate on improving needed facilities."

The research team, led by Dr Thomas Bewley, a consultant psychiatrist, carried out its initial census in May, 1973, when there were 1,467 patients in the hospital. They comprised

about 200 young patients with acute mental illness, 450 young patients who had been in hospital for some years, and 800 elderly patients, mostly suffering from a combination of physical and mental illness.

Overall, the psychiatrists thought that three fifths of the total were unlikely ever to be discharged. Their assessment was confirmed when the patients were reexamined 10 and 20 months later. A more detailed study of 422 patients who had been in the hospital for eight years or longer showed that most were suffering from chronic schizophrenia or an organic psychosis (a disordered mental state).

Although in most cases relatives were known, half the patients were never visited. Many might have been suitable for discharge from hospital if adequate community facilities had been available for their care, but in the absence of places in hostels and residential training centres they would stay in the hospital for the rest of their lives.

Journalists urge three unions to join talks

By Our Labour Staff

The National Union of Journalists yesterday urged all Fleet Street unions to enter talks with national newspaper owners on the industry's economic and technical problems.

The call was aimed at the three unions most affected by the introduction of new technology: the National Graphical Association, the Society of Lithographic Artists, Designers and Engravers, and the Amalgamated Union of Engineering workers.

Four other Fleet Street unions are already cooperating in talks and the NUJ believes that all the unions should act together. Mr Kenneth Morgan, its general secretary, said yesterday that the union's council had reiterated the need to ensure that any new technology adopted was capable of meeting the editorial needs of the press. "We are therefore stressing the need for the fullest consultation and agreement with journalists before there is commitment to the introduction of new techniques," he said.

Solicitor accused in conspiracy case discharged

A solicitor accused of being involved in a conspiracy to burn down Brigadier Mill, Norfolk, and claim insurance of £153,000 was discharged by a Norwich court yesterday.

The magistrates accepted a submission by counsel for Alisdair Strachan, that there was no case for him to answer. The prosecution did not oppose the submission.

Mr Strachan, aged 27, of Melbourne Chase, Colchester, Essex, was granted costs out of central funds.

He was remanded on bail on a further charge of conspiring with others to defraud the English Tourist Board.

Officials knew of crime before police were told

Mr Justice Willis, at Nottingham Crown Court, yesterday called for an investigation into an allegation that social workers knew about five serious offences six months before the police were told.

He said he was extremely disquieted by what he had been told. It appeared from defence evidence that the accused man, George Ledbeater, aged 37, had told social workers in Derbyshire about the offences six months before the police were brought into the case.

The judge added: "I understand the police have sought to confirm whether or not this is so but have been unable to get any satisfaction from the social services. I hope this matter will be brought to the attention of the social services department concerned and investigated very carefully indeed."

Mr Ledbeater, of Station Road, Sandiacre, Derbyshire, was jailed for eight years for five offences against a girl aged nine. He was said to have gone to the police himself and confessed.

Correction

Contrary to the impression given by the headline to the report in *The Times* yesterday about charges of theft of ICI beagles, heard in Knaresborough Crown Court, the defendants, John Bryant and Michael Rushton, were, as the body of the report made clear, found not guilty when no evidence was offered against them.

Site found at last for Katyn memorial

By Diana Gaddes

Mr Louis FitzGibbon, founder and honorary secretary of the Katyn Memorial Fund, yesterday welcomed the end of a five-year attempt to find a site for a monument to the 14,500 Polish officers who were alleged to have been massacred in the Katyn Forest and elsewhere in Russia in 1940.

Kensington and Chelsea borough council has approved the erection of the monument in the council cemetery in Gunnersbury Park. The cemetery is not consecrated ground, so no faculty is required from the church.

The fund had to abandon its original choice of a site in St Luke's Gardens, Chelsea, which had been offered by the council. The London diocesan consistory court refused in January to grant a faculty for it to be placed there. The garden, which are managed by the council, were once a consecrated burial ground.

Mr FitzGibbon said the monument would be a 20ft polished black granite obelisk bearing the inscription "Katyn 1940" above a crowned Polish eagle, surrounded by barbed wire, to symbolize the "continuing enslavement of Poland".

Controversy has surrounded the memorial from the start because of the massacre date being given as 1940. That in effect makes the Russians responsible, whereas the Soviet Government contends that the massacre was not until late 1941. The date was chosen because Katyn had been captured by the Germans.

Mr FitzGibbon said he was happy with the new site, which would provide "a quiet place where the surviving relatives of the victims can pay homage to the dead and where passers-by can ponder on man's inhumanity to man."

A number of Polish exiles are already buried in the cemetery, which is close to Ealing and Hammersmith, where many Poles lived.

He was most grateful for the support of the royal borough during the past four years, "in spite of all the distasteful opposition put up by the church".

The monument would provide "not only a fragment of moral indemnification for Poles everywhere but also a testament to justice still has to be done". The fund committee wanted an international tribunal to pass judgement "on this notorious crime".

A total of £20,000 has been collected from the memorial. But Mr FitzGibbon believes that inflation will mean that another £5,000 will be needed to cover the costs. He hopes work will start early next year.

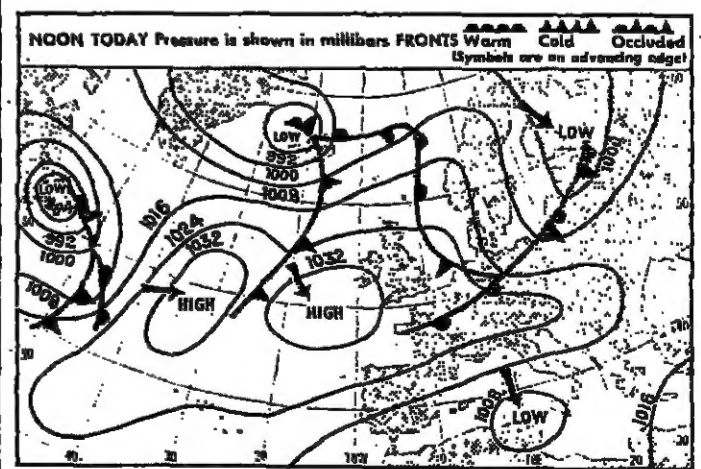
Work to start on Winchester road

Preparatory work for 14 miles of the M3, between Farnham and Compton, passing to the east of Winchester, should start without further delay, a spokesman for the Environment, said yesterday.

Earlier this year a deputation from the Winchester City council asked for a review of the scheme.

No coastguard cuts
No cuts in spending on the Auxiliary Coastguard Service are due, although the cost of wages and salaries is rising. In 1972 to 1973, the cost of the service was £567,000 a year. Mr Clinton Davis, Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Trade, said in a Commons written reply yesterday.

Weather forecast and recordings



NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars. FRONTS Warm Cold Occluded. Symbols are as on preceding page.

Today
Sun rises: 8.22 am. Sun sets: 3.53 pm.
Moon sets: 8.22 am. Moon rises: 5.14 pm.
Last quarter: December 25.
Lighting up: 4.23 pm to 7.33 am.
High water: London Bridge, 1.55 pm, 6.30 am (22.8ft); 2.14 pm, 7.00 am (23.0ft). Avonmouth, 7.30 am, 12.00 am (42.7ft); 7.55 pm, 12.00 am (42.8ft). Dover, 11.15 am, 6.40 am (21.0ft); 11.36 pm, 6.50 am (21.5ft). Hull, 6.27 am, 6.50 am (22.7ft); 6.37 pm, 7.2m (33.7ft). Liverpool, 11.31 am, 9.1m (30.0ft); 11.52 pm, 9.0m (29.6ft).

A trough of low pressure over S England will move away S and another trough will later approach NW Scotland.
Forecast for 6 am to midnight: London, SE, central S England, fair; rain; S, sun; snow.

East Anglia: Mostly cloudy, occasional rain, becoming dry with bright intervals, for patches at night; wind NW to N, light; max temp 8°C (46°F).

Midlands: E, NE and central N. England: Dry, bright spells, for patches early and late; wind NW, light; max temp 8°C (46°F).

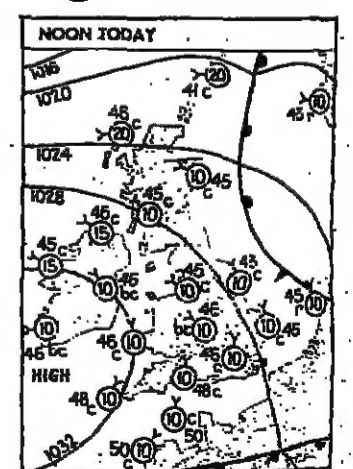
Channel Islands, SW England: Cloudy, occasional rain in places at first; bright or clear intervals later; wind NW to N, light; max temp 9°C (48°F).

Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, N Ireland: Rather cloudy, occasional rain in places, bright spells; wind NW, light, backing W, moderate; max temp 9°C (48°F).

Outlook: For tomorrow and Sunday: Occasional rain over NW Scotland spreading to most places followed by brighter weather, showers in N, further rain in W.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow.

Alps	Amsterdam	Bombay	Buenos Aires	Calcutta	Cairo	Cardiff	Chennai	Copenhagen	Dublin	Hong Kong	London	Lyons	Madras	Manila	Medan	Montreal	Mumbai	Nairobi	Paris	Rangoon	San Francisco	Singapore	Sourabaya	Tokyo	Yokohama
10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0



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10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0

Why Hine cognac is different.

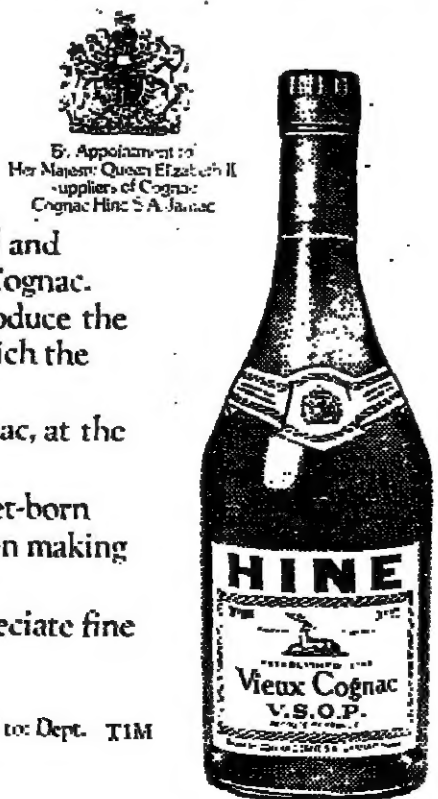
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Hine Cognac comes from Jarnac, at the heart of the Charente.

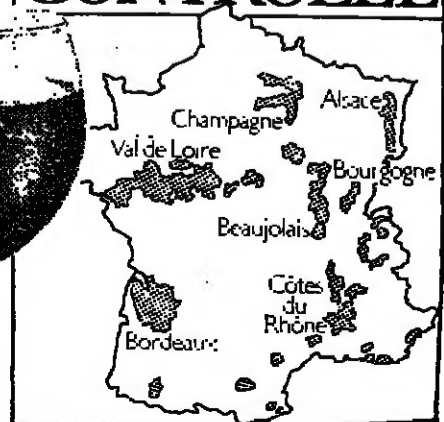
In fact, the firm to which Dorset-born Thomas Hine gave his name has been making fine Cognac since 1763.

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PARLIAMENT, December 18, 1975

Eating words the front bench Christmas diet

House of Commons

During questions about the Chancellor of the Exchequer's speech on economic matters on December 3, and its relationship to Government policy.

MR WHITELAW (Deputy Leader of the Opposition (Perth and the Border, C)) said: It is pointless trying to explain what numbers of the Government have said. They will have to spend the Christmas recess eating the words they have spoken in many recent speeches.

The Government's industrial strategy, as announced at Chequers, of backing only winners has been reversed, in the words of a famous phrase, "in weeks rather than months". (Conservative cheers.)

MR SHORT, Lord President of the Council (Newcastle upon Tyne, Central, Lab), who replied in Mr Wilson's absence, said: I am often asked to visit Northern Ireland, said: If we are talking about eating words, Mr Whitelaw has a lot of eating to do. He has turned his back on the policy pursued by the last Government of which he was a prominent member. The whole front bench of the Government have disowned that Government.

MR WHITELAW—What arises now is that the Government of which Mr Short is a prominent member should start eating words

they have uttered in the last few weeks.

MR SHORT—There is no conflict between the solution put to the House on Chequers and the strategy agreed at Chequers. (Conservative interruptions.) If it is good industrial strategy to allow a major part of one of our major export industries to collapse suddenly, that is not our idea of strategy.

MR ATKINSON (Haringey, Tottenham, Lab)—In view of the Chancellor's use yesterday of Treasury cosmetics, is it not painfully clear that the Government have no intention of refuting the unemployment until the borrowing requirement and rate of inflation are more than halved?

Is it a rejection by the Government of socialist concepts of planning the current rate of inflation? Is international credit opinion which is preventing them from pursuing policies allowing us to reduce the unemployment rate?

MR SHORT—We have every intention of taking concrete steps to reduce the level of unemployment. We have announced yesterday, for ways to do this. We have no intention of refuting the economy. The whole front bench of the Government would have harmful consequences.

MR HUGH FRASER (Stafford and Stone, C)—After the measures

proposed yesterday would he seriously consider issuing an order to nationalized industries to buy British in their Christmas diet? For too many of them are buying from abroad when it is totally unnecessary.

For example, the Central Electricity Generating Board, which is chasing Swedish equipment which could be manufactured in this country and in Stafford.

MR SHORT—A great deal more could be done in this direction. I hope the nationalized industries will note what he has said.

MR PATTIE (Chertsey and Walton, C)—Is it reasonable for the Government to expect other countries artificially to increase their own internal rates of inflation to accommodate British exports? The Chancellor's speech in the context of world trade represented an application by Britain for consideration for charitable status.

MR SHORT—Not at all. It is reasonable for other countries to be in a position to do so. We are not, but when we are we are going to rise above 1,500,000?

MR CRIVER (Kingsley, Lab)—Much greater action on imports is needed than was indicated by the package announced yesterday. Imports are not likely to manage to prevent the present loss of 200 jobs a week.

With a Labour Government trying to produce a planned internal economy, we must have a look at imports as well and plan those rather than leave them to the vagaries of the market.

MR SHORT—I know his problems and know his constituency. The package announced yesterday was useful. The Government will keep this under review.

MR THORPE, Leader of the Liberal (North Devon, Lib)—Care to take it from his reply that the Government reject the OECD prophecy that this country will have 1,750,000 unemployed by the end of next year?

MR SHORT—They did not prophesy that. I do not think it will rise as high as that.

MR ATKINSON—He has said that the Government do not accept that unemployment will rise to 1,750,000. So that we have to mislead the country like this? It is in mind? If we have rejected the idea of inflation, may we assume that in the Government's opinion unemployment is going to rise above 1,500,000?

MR SHORT—I said we reject the solution of inflation so long as it would endanger our battle against unemployment. I am not giving a figure today, but it will not rise to anywhere near the figure he and Mr Thorpe quoted.

Three-tier seasonal fares agreed for cross-Channel car ferries

MR CLEMTISON (Luton, East, Lab) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection for a statement on the proposed three-tier seasonal fares for cross-Channel car ferry services.

MR ALAN WILLIAMS, Minister of State, in a written reply, said: The House will recall that on April 11, 1974, I announced that the Government accepted the conclusions and recommendations of the Monopolies Commission's report on cross-Channel car ferry services.

The Director General of Fair Trading is discussing implementation of the commission's recommendations with the United Kingdom operators.

The Director General has been devoting particular attention to improving the fare structure for the United Kingdom operators.

The commission's recommendation that this should be a three-tier system, with the lowest tier for the most basic services, and the highest tier for the most luxurious services, is being considered.

The United Kingdom operators have agreed to introduce a three-tier seasonal tariff for cars with effect from January 1, 1976.

The lowest tier will be standard season rates from April 1 to July 8 and from September 6 to December 31, a total of nearly 31 weeks. In the summer season of just over eight weeks (July 9 to September 5) car rates will be approximately 20 per cent above the standard season rates and in the 13 week winter season (January 1 to March 31) they will be approximately 20 per cent below the standard season rates.

Lengthy discussions have also taken place between the United Kingdom operators and the Director General concerning the rate and fare increases sought by them for 1976. Original estimates made by the United Kingdom operators were that, due to extremely sharp increases in their costs, rates for 1976 would need to rise over 30 per cent. It was agreed that increases of this magnitude would not lead to unreasonable profits.

However, the operators have now proposed, and I have accepted, that for 1976 the standard season rates should be the same as for the summer season of 1975. (Conservative cheers.) In practice, where they will be lower) and that the winter season rates should be the same as obtain now.

The increase in the 1976 summer season rates, as compared with rates in the corresponding period of 1975, will vary by amounts from £2 for a Mini to £5 for the largest car, on the routes most used. From April 1, 1976, there will also be an increase in fares for the 13 week winter season. The increase in winter season rates will be introduced for Hoverscraft travel between Dover and Boulogne.

I am asking the Director General to continue his discussions with the United Kingdom operators to ensure the effective implementation of the commission's recommendations about the harmonization of conference and pooling arrangements, and also to obtain further improvements in the tariff.

MR THOMAS—One cannot conceivably say that when a fringe benefit of employment someone gets, as tens of thousands of people do, a loan or mortgage at 5 per cent, that does not constitute a fringe benefit. Is he satisfied with the way the tax authorities interpret this, and with the arrangements that I understand many merchant banks have whereby their employees and senior executives are given an overdraft account with their own bank and pay no interest?

MR DAVIES—It is a question of a loophole in the law. It is extremely difficult to prove that there is an expense to the employer in providing these facilities. This is one of a number of fringe benefits we are looking at.

MR ANTHONY MEYER (Furness, C)—He should read Finance Bill 1975. It contains a number of provisions which will ensure that the tax system is fair and equitable.

MR DAVIES—The provision of a loan, mortgage or overdraft facility at less than market rates of interest is not a fringe benefit. It is a benefit which is available to all employees.

MR DAVIES—There are abuses in the tax system and people at the higher levels have

better opportunity of reducing their tax burden than those at the lower levels. The Chancellor is looking at this matter urgently.

MR GRYLLS (Surrey, North, West, C)—If the Chancellor is going to cut fringe benefits, why not consider lowering the higher or middle rates of tax for management and professional people? This is a serious problem as we are in competition with lower rates of tax in Europe.

MR DAVIES—People on the lower levels of income also pay high marginal rates of tax and they do not have the benefit of those fringe benefits which people at the higher levels do.

MR MIKE THOMAS (Newcastle upon Tyne, East, Lab) asked if the Chancellor was satisfied that the tax system by people on unemployment benefits and social security benefits, but it is a serious problem as we are in competition with lower rates of tax in Europe.

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Relations between EEC and Israel

European Parliament

Strasbourg

Opening a debate on the Community's relations with Israel and other Mediterranean countries.

MR PATJIN (The Netherlands, Soc) said that the philosophy of the Community's Mediterranean policy showed that Greece and Turkey were happy with their relationship with the EEC. These two countries were destined to become members of the Community one day.

The Community believed that there should be a parallel agreement between Israel and other Mediterranean countries, but was wrong to claim that the implementation of these 1975 agreements should be in parallel. In practice, the slowest partner would act as a brake on the negotiations.

The trade agreement with Israel should be a model for the same was true for the agreements being negotiated with Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, and a number of other Arab countries.

MR PINTAT (France, L) said the EEC's Mediterranean policy had indeed run into difficulties and the deadlines laid down by the Commission had not all been met. The delays were surprising because the Commission had not all been met. The delays were surprising because the Commission had not all been met.

SIGNOR VETRONI (Italy, C-D) said the creation of an extensive free trade area in the Mediterranean was only possible at the risk of disturbing competition.

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HOME NEWS



Bravery award: Mr Harry Secombe with Ben and Dominic Pocher, who received a "Children of Courage" award from Mrs Harold Wilson in Westminster Abbey yesterday after surviving an air crash in the African jungle. The presentation was sponsored by Woman's Own magazine.

Four men remanded in custody on Balcombe Street siege charge

By Clive Borrell

Murder charges are expected to be brought against some of the four men arrested after the Balcombe Street siege, it was stated by Commander Roy Habershon, head of Scotland Yard's bomb squad, at Marylebone Magistrates' Court, London, yesterday.

During a three-minute hearing Mr Habershon applied for and was granted a remand in custody against the four men. He said: "Our inquiries encompass a large number of other very serious offences and a report will be made to the Director of Public Prosecutions. There will be other considerable further charges to be preferred, and they are likely to be murder."

The four men who appeared in the dock were: Harry Duggan, aged 23, of Co. Clare, Republic of Ireland; Joseph O'Connell, aged 24, of Ennis, Co. Clare; Edward Butler, aged 26, of Limerick; and Hugh Doherty aged 25, who gave an address in Glasgow.

Before the men were brought into court, each handcuffed to a member of Scotland Yard's

special patrol group, other officers, many of them armed, took up positions encircling the courthouse. Some officers were stationed on the rooftops of buildings overlooking Marylebone Road, less than 300 yards from Balcombe Street. Police, lawyers and reporters had to show passes and were searched before being allowed into the courtroom.

All four defendants were granted legal aid and remanded in custody to South Western Magistrates' Court next Wednesday. Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

The full charges against all four are:

1. That you, on December 6, 1975, at 22b Balcombe Street, Marylebone, assaulted John Henry Matthews and Sheila Marjorie Matthews and unlawfully and injuriously imprisoned John Henry Matthews and Sheila Marjorie Matthews and detained them for 181 hours against their will, against the peace.

2. On December 6, 1975, at 22b Balcombe Street, Marylebone, you had in your possession firearms, viz two .357 Astra Magnum revolvers, two .38 Colt Special revolvers and one Brown automatic pistol within intent by means

thereof to endanger life, contrary to section 16, Firearms Act, 1968. 3. On December 6, 1975, at 22b Balcombe Street, Marylebone, you had in your possession ammunition, viz 13 rounds .357 ammunition, six rounds 9mm ammunition, and 25 rounds .38 ammunition with intent by means thereof to endanger life, contrary to section 16, Firearms Act, 1968. 4. On December 6, 1975, at 22b Balcombe Street, Marylebone, you had in your possession a certain firearm, namely a Sten gun Mark Two, which was so designed or adapted that if pressure were applied to the trigger mechanism it would continue to be discharged until pressure was removed from the trigger of the magazine containing missiles was empty, contrary to section 16, Firearms Act, 1968. 5. On December 6, 1975, at 22b Balcombe Street, Marylebone, you had in your possession a firearm, viz one .30 M1 carbine, with intent by means thereof to endanger life, contrary to section 16, Firearms Act, 1968. 6. On December 6, 1975, at 22b Balcombe Street, Marylebone, you had in your possession ammunition, viz 48 rounds of 9mm ammunition and 32 rounds of .38 ammunition with intent by means thereof to endanger life, contrary to section 16, Firearms Act, 1968.

London and Moscow students to 'twin'

By David Hencke
of The Times Higher Education Supplement

Student organisations at London University and Moscow State University are to be "twinning" in a programme of cultural exchanges as a result of the policy of détente after the Helsinki agreement.

The National Union of Students and the Students' Council of the Soviet Union reached agreement on the exchange last week during a meeting of European national student unions in Bucharest.

It is the first agreement between students at a British and Soviet university and is expected to be the first of a series of twinning arrangements between British universities and colleges and those in communist countries.

The first students, representing the 70,000 undergraduates at both institutions, are expected to be exchanged next year, when sports teams and student politicians visit Moscow.

Mr Trevor Phillips, president of London University's students' union and a member of the NUS executive, negotiated the agreement. He said: "I believe that following the Helsinki agreement, and the spirit of détente every effort should be made for more cooperation between East and West. It is particularly important for British students not to remain ignorant of a country the size of the Soviet Union."

Mr Mikhail Ilyin, a member of the Soviet Union Students' Council, said: "The Soviet Union has been longing for an agreement between a university in the United Kingdom and one in our country."

He added that cultural exchanges were common between universities in communist countries and had recently been extended to Finland and West Germany.

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Mother aged 22 suffocated three children

A "caring and conscientious" mother suffocated her three small children over a period of 18 months when a strange feeling came over her while her husband was on night shifts, it was stated at Nottingham Crown Court yesterday.

The first two killings went unsuspected, despite post-mortem examinations, and were put down as "cot deaths". In the third case a professor who performed the post-mortem examination found that the child had been suffocated.

Mrs Ann Quigg, aged 22, of Greasley Walk, Corby, Northamptonshire, was committed to hospital under an order for a period without a time limit. Mr Justice Willis said she was a sick person who must be looked after rather than punished.

She denied charges of murdering her three children but her pleas of manslaughter due to diminished responsibility were accepted.

Mr Charles McCullough, QC, for the defence, said: "Through abnormality of mind she was compelled to smother each one for what she believed to be its own benefit. She thought she was making each child safe. She was never ever able to tell anyone, not even her husband, of the feelings with which she had to battle."

Dockland scheme

A stretch of derelict dockland at Govan, Glasgow, is to be made into a tree-lined promenade, at a cost of £4,000. It will be the first environmental project by the Scottish Development Agency.

Plan for regional opera base in Leeds

By Kenneth Gosling
Arts Reporter

The Arts Council is to support a plan for the English National Opera Company to set up a base in Leeds, it was announced yesterday. It would provide a regionally based company parallel to that at the Coliseum, in London, with a small nucleus of artists and staff drawn from the talent now available.

The proposal has emerged from a working group set up last September by the council to define the demand for touring opera, with special reference to middle-scale theatres in England, and to examine the resources available to meet that demand.

Rise in milk price leads to drop in sales

By Our Agricultural Correspondent

Increases in the price of milk last month cut sales in England and Wales for the first time since 1972, the Milk Marketing Board said yesterday.

In its latest survey of the market it said that the rise of 11p on a pint in November was followed by a cut in sales of 1,000 the month of 17 pints in 1974, compared with November, 1974.

The rapid growth of grass during the autumn stimulated output of milk at the same time, the board said. It was therefore

Changes urged in law on fostered children

From Arthur Osman
Nottingham

Nottinghamshire Social Services Committee yesterday asked the Association of County Councils to press the Home Office to consider two principles when reviewing the Children and Young Persons Act, 1933.

The principles are that the public, through the local authority, should be liable to pay compensation only when a child has committed an offence while in a county council home under the supervision of its staff and directly as a result of negligence; and that the local authority should be required to exercise due care and control only within the context of resources actually at its disposal.

In a recent case at Nottingham Juvenile Court the county council was ordered to pay £76.84 compensation for a burglary committed by a child aged 11, who was placed with a foster-mother. An appeal was dismissed by the High Court. The committee was told that there was no criticism of the foster-parent at either hearing.

Mr Keith Jenkins, the council's principal solicitor, told the committee that the council did not wish to place the financial burden on the foster-parents but was concerned at being called on to pay compensation under circumstances in which it had not been negligent.

Mr John Hayes, a deputy director of administration, said that they were fully behind the foster-parents and it was considered that the likelihood of claims being made against the foster-parents was very small.

Club to operate bus services for its members

The Horncastle Bus Club in Lincolnshire has been given permission to operate bus services for its members in Louth and Horncastle, for a trial period of one year, from January 6. The club, which has 150 members, who approved the application, said yesterday that they had serious doubts about the viability of the scheme.

The club is to operate three journeys in each direction between the towns on Wednesday and Saturday. Members will pay £5.75 every 13 weeks with a reduced rate of £4.50 for pensioners.

The club was formed when the present operators gave up the route in July.

Jail for attacker

John Conyard, aged 35, a lorry driver, of Stanley Road, South Woodford, Essex, was jailed at the Central Criminal Court yesterday for 21 months for pushing a glass into a barmaid's face because she refused him 35p credit.

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How cheap is the ocean, how high is the sky?

HOME NEWS

Government refusal to pay refunds means higher water charges

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

The Government has decided that the water authorities should refund £60m in sewerage charges to householders whose properties are not connected to the main sewers. In the light of the judgment by the House of Lords in the Daymond case, water and local authorities had hoped that the Government would bear the cost, which arose because of faulty drafting of the Water Act 1973.

Mr John Silkin, Minister of Planning and Local Government, said in a written answer to the Commons yesterday: "The Government have concluded that it would not be right to impose a new burden on public expenditure in this way." He added that no part of the cost of refunds, which would be made at the time of next year's rate demands, would fall on local authorities.

Mr Silkin said, in answer to Mr Clement Freud, that the water authorities, given their statutory obligation to bring even, would have to recover the estimated £60m cost from higher charges on those consumers, the great majority,

whose properties were connected to the sewers. "These connected consumers would of course have faced higher charges in the past two years if the unconnected properties had not been charged," he said.

Mr Silkin said legislation to allow refunds would be introduced in time to have it on the statute book by the end of March. It would "remove the doubt" which the judgment raises about the water authorities' power to charge for those services, such as pollution control, which are undertaken for the benefit of the community at large and have no identifiable users.

Local authority associations expressed regret that the Government was not bearing the cost of the faulty legislation, but welcomed the fact that local authorities would not have to do so.

They also welcomed promised legislation to bring all properties under the umbrella of general charges. "Those ratepayers connected to the main sewers help to overcome the dangers of cholera for all the people living in the area, whether connected or not," Mr Robin McCall, secretary of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, commented.

Strike warning as building employers refuse £6 claim

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Building employers yesterday rejected union demands for a 5% increase from next month, despite a clear hint that the 1972 national strike of construction workers could be repeated.

The warning of a new stoppage came in fresh submissions by four unions representing 850,000 men in the industry. It said: "Employers would do well to note the dangerous possibility of history repeating itself." Recalling that the present dispute had similar origins, the unions added: "No one should need reminding that the consequence was the protracted and bitter building industry dispute."

Yesterday's negotiations took place against a background of gloomy predictions from the employers. Mr Ernest Smith, president of the National Federation of Building Trades Employers, said: "The building industry looks likely to remain in severe recession for the greater part of 1976, if not the whole of it."

During the talks the unions were told that building industry bankruptcies were half as high again as the record levels of 1974; but in their written submissions the unions said they were aware of the number of firms going out of business.

"We are also well aware that wages actually being paid at site level continue to bear little relation to those negotiated nationally,"

and this would suggest that the claim for an additional £6 paid in conformity with the White Paper guidelines is not excessive," the submission said. The unions argued that an immediate 5% increase would only just enable construction workers to hold their ground against inflation.

It is clear that the construction industry is in a severe recession, out of which there is no known avenue. Mr Smith said employment was in a disastrous state. He said: "In Britain alone some 175,000 operatives are registered as unemployed, and if we take Northern Ireland into account the total rises to 185,000."

"We look like being faced with a peak of about 250,000 unemployed in the coming months, and how many of those operatives will return to the industry is anybody's guess. All our experience suggests that a substantial part of that total has left for good."

The pay negotiations were adjourned to a date to be fixed next month. There is a wide gap between the two sides. The unions cite the case of the Hull dockers who received a 5% increase a few months after a second stage of their pay agreement. The employers, using the Government's counter-inflation policy and the recession in the industry as arguments, are opposed to any increase in wages before next month, when the present 18-month agreement expires.

Pilot flew low after dispute with woman

From Our Correspondent
Chichester

A pilot who took an aircraft from Goodwood airfield after a dispute with his woman friend and "buzzed" Bognor Regis was jailed at Chichester Crown Court yesterday for two years and three months.

Judge Lerron, QC, said that Gary Michael Scott, aged 30, of Oldbury Farm, Crockerhill, near Chichester, terrorized the town, putting innocent people in grievous peril. He was a public menace, a man determined to go to any lengths to get his own way.

Mr Scott, an agricultural consultant, pleaded guilty to 13 charges, including burglary, unlawfully taking an aircraft, low flying, imperilling safety, and reckless driving in a car on another occasion while on bail. He was banned from driving for two and a half years. The judge recommended that his pilot's licence should be revoked.

Mr Richard Carr, for the prosecution, said that as Mr Scott flew low over Bognor Regis, within a few feet of blocks of flats and below roof-level, residents thought their lives were in danger. The area around Hastings, close to his friend, Mrs Patricia Walton, lived, was evacuated by the police.

Over the aircraft's radio Mr Scott said that he wanted Mrs Walton to go to Goodwood airfield. He "buzzed" the car in which she was being driven there.

He eventually landed and spoke to her but after a minute or so got back into the aircraft and flew the three miles to Tangmere airfield. There the police saw him with a shotgun, giving the impression that he was going to commit suicide.

Mr Carr said that while Mr Scott was on bail he went to Goodwood airfield, saw and telephoned to the police, saying that he was thinking of taking up a flight aircraft. The police found him driving a car along the A27. During a chase Mr Scott drove at up to 70 to 80 mph and was eventually stopped by a small bank and coming to rest in a field.

Mr Richard Brown, for the defence, said Mr Scott went to pieces under emotional stress. He needed a doctor's care and was connected with Goodwood flying club and had obtained a pilot's licence after a short period of training. He had logged many hours' flying time.

Library blames recession for drop in users

By Our Arts Reporter

A decline in the number of readers using the departments of printed books and manuscripts at the British Library is attributed to the world economic recession, in the library's second annual report, published today. It says that services to readers in the reading rooms, a matter of concern for some years, have been more satisfactory because of the provision of extra places and the drop in the number of visiting scholars and the length of time they spend in the rooms. But at no time during the year was it necessary to exclude readers for lack of seats.

The number of readers' tickets dropped from 34,163 to 30,538. The department of manuscripts also showed a drop of about 4 per cent in the number of readers; photographic orders dropped from 4,211 to 3,892. That was a new trend, but it seemed likely to reflect the reduction in funds for research, both in Britain and overseas.

Demand for loans and photocopies in the lending division increased by 18 per cent on the home side, with 332,000 more requests than in the previous year. Demands for reserve customers rose by 30 per cent. The increase in home demand is attributed to the difficulties that libraries of all kinds find in keeping up with the volume and cost of new publications.

Dartmoor curbs 'would harm army efficiency'

Troops would be sent into action without proper preparation if the Services made any further concessions over their use of Dartmoor, a public inquiry was told yesterday.

Major-General Derek Pounds, of the Royal Marine Command, said that would be quite unacceptable. He told the Exeter inquiry into the military use of the moor: "We have already accepted, in advance of this inquiry, very substantial reductions in our facilities."

Most uses of Dartmoor training areas were short notice for operations. "My judgment, as operational military commander, is that the projected estimates of future use that we have given represent the minimum needed to maintain an acceptable level of efficiency."

Conservation groups have protested that the Armed Forces are ruining the moor.

Pecking order

An analysis of a pecking order for British universities, suggesting which are the main centres of excellence, was concluded today in *The Times Higher Education Supplement*. There are special articles on Heger, the Open University, and academic salaries.

WEST EUROPE

European Parliament approves budget to increase Community's spending by 21%

From David Cross
Strasbourg, Dec 18

The European Parliament today approved by an overwhelming majority the final version of next year's EEC budget which will total 7,575m units of account (about £3,155m). This represents a 21 per cent increase over this year's community spending.

The budget met complete opposition only from the Communist group. A handful of British members, including Lord Bruce of Donington, a Labour member, and Mr Hugh Dykes, a Conservative, abstained in the vote, mainly on the ground that member governments were being too parsimonious.

Under the complicated formulae employed by the Community for drawing up its budget, the original draft is submitted by the European Commission to member states and the European Parliament for amendments to be made. Most of the final decision remains with the member Governments but the Parliament is gradually winning more control.

As in past years the Community's agricultural policy accounts for nearly three-quarters (about £2,500m) of next

year's expenditure. The remaining quarter will be used mainly to finance the EEC's social fund (about £185m), the regional development fund (£125m), aid to developing countries (£100m) and research programmes (£72m).

The final budget is some £150m lower than the Parliament and the Commission had originally sought. But, pleading austerity during the continuing recession, member governments such as the West Germans had made it clear from the outset that they wanted to prune Community spending as much as possible.

When the Parliament took its final vote today, the only outstanding issue of importance was whether member governments would agree to a modest increase of some £5.5m over the figure they suggested earlier this month. After a telephone call to Brussels, the Italian president of the Council of Ministers apparently gave his verbal assent.

The extra money voted today will be used principally to supplement expenditure on the social fund and on aid to developing countries such as India and Pakistan.

Explaining his abstention in the final vote, Lord Bruce of Donington, an anti-marketeer, said the budget was funded mentally unsound. He believed the Community should be spending much less on agriculture.

Mr Dykes objected to cuts having been made at a time when national administrations were reducing their own public spending. The Community's budget should be larger to compensate for these cuts, he said.

This view was not shared by other British MPs. Mr Tam Dalyell, a Labour member, said after the vote that he could not see how some of his colleagues could vote for increased Community expenditure and then go back to their constituents and plead austerity on the national level. "It is just not responsible to want to have an austerity campaign in one corner of the Community," he said.

He criticized the Community's budget for lacking any obvious strategy. British Labour members would try to persuade the Commission and their parliamentary colleagues to work out more coherent budget next year, he said.

Protest poet arrives in Vienna

Vienna, Dec 18.—Natalya Gorbanyarskaya, the poet who spent two years in a psychiatric hospital in the Soviet Union for anti-Soviet slanders, arrived here today with her two sons from Moscow. She entered the West exactly a year after an earlier refusal by the Soviet authorities to grant her emigration papers.

Ms Gorbanyarskaya, some of whose works have been published in the West, is one of the people who staged a brief sit-down protest in the Red Square in August, 1968, against the Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia. She is 39.

Five of her companions were jailed, but she and another companion were allowed to go free. Two years later she published a book entitled *Red Square at Noon* in which she described the protest.

She later stood trial and was found guilty of anti-Soviet slanders while in prison and confined to a psychiatric hospital. A spokesman for the Austrian branch of Amnesty International, who met her at Vienna airport said she would probably stay in Austria for at least two years before leaving for either France, Belgium or the United States.—Reuter.

Parties given deadline in Portugal

From Our Correspondent
Lisbon, Dec 18

Portugal's Revolutionary Council has given the political parties until December 30 to present their proposals for revising the original pact between them and the Armed Forces Movement. This has been deemed necessary in view of developments since the original pact was signed in April this year.

The parties chosen to discuss the matter are a committee of members of the Revolutionary Council are the Socialists, the Communists, the Popular Democrats, the Christian Democrats and the Portuguese Democratic Movement, which supports the Communists.

No details have been given of the discussions, which began yesterday, but it is understood that they will continue tomorrow.

Budget of £125m for European nuclear body

From Our Correspondent
Geneva, Dec 18

A 1976 budget of more than £125m was adopted today by the Council of Cem, the 12-nation European organization for nuclear research. Britain will pay some £20m.

West German, responsible for a quarter of the budget, objected to the figure being over £3m more than the current total. After discussing the objection, the Council decided that budgets for 1977-79 should be reduced by 3 per cent.

Dr G. R. Stafford, of Harwell, said the British Government could not now indicate its attitude to the proposed 1977 budget, to be discussed by the Council in June.

Driver still to face trial over Britons' deaths

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, Dec 18

A court official at Marbella today denied that charges had been dropped against the Spanish van driver involved in the road crash last August in which the wives of Mr Richard Marsh, chairman of British Rail, and Mr David Jacobs, the television entertainer, were fatally injured.

Reports in London had suggested that the driver, Señor Juan Calderón Martínez, would be given a summary trial, having benefited under the recent pardon announced by King Juan Carlos. The court official said the case would continue: the prosecutor was still deciding what charges to bring.

EEC agreement on ending sex discrimination pleases British delegation

From Our Own Correspondent
Brussels, Dec 18

EEC social affairs ministers today agreed to take measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women in employment and to ensure that legal redress is available to those who consider they have been denied equal treatment with men. Action will be taken on the basis of a draft directive submitted by the European Commission.

Ministers first discussed the directive in June, but failed to reach agreement then because of a provision for making social security conditions the same for both sexes. Mrs Barbara Castle, Secretary of State for the Social Services, was particularly opposed to this.

She estimated that the cost of harmonising pension rights in Britain, which in effect would mean lowering the retirement age for men from 65 to 60, would amount to £1,400m.

The social security provision was subsequently dropped, and this enabled the equal treatment directive to be adopted without too much difficulty.

Mr John Fraser, Parliamentary Under Secretary at the Department of Employment, described the occasion as "quite exciting".

The British delegation was particularly pleased that the final version of the directive

recognized the need for women to have an enforceable legal right to equal treatment. Some other governments had wanted to limit their obligations simply to the removal of discriminatory aspects of existing statutes.

Member governments are required to implement the directive within two and a half years of its formal promulgation, which will probably be next month. However, Britain's own Sex Discrimination Act, which goes considerably beyond the Commission's proposals, takes effect at the end of this month.

The purpose of the directive is to secure women equal treatment in access to employment, promotion, vocational training and working conditions. It is estimated that at present there are 35 million employed or self-employed women in the Community.

After agreeing on equal job rights for women, ministers rejected a Commission scheme for making money available from the EEC's Social Fund to workers in those sectors of industry hardest hit by the economic recession.

Ministers generally felt that the limited amount of money available (about £11m) would be better spent on an already approved scheme for emergency aid to unemployed people under the age of 25. The fund set aside for this purpose is already heavily oversubscribed.

Bonn sounds alarm over defence cuts and BAOR

By Roger Berthoud

Trouble is brewing between Britain and West Germany over defence. The two potential sources of strain are the expected further cuts in British defence spending and the talks due early next year on renewing the offset agreement covering Bonn's contribution to the costs of the Rhine Army (BAOR).

The five-year offset agreement under which West Germany pays £100m (£100m) and expires on March 31. The indications are that the Germans do not want another one, even though the depreciation of the pound has increased the foreign exchange cost to Britain. This attitude is likely to come as an unpleasant shock to the British Government.

Basically, the West Germans feel little help over the costs of BAOR is now a matter for the NATO alliance as a whole. Offset agreements for them smack of occupation costs, and cause constant difficulties.

It was never formally stated that the expiring agreement was the last, but they regarded it as such.

The fact that the offset talks are expected to begin before the size of the defence cuts is finally decided could put the British in a position to threaten to reduce BAOR (normally considered sacrosanct) unless a West German contribution is forthcoming. This would scarcely improve relations.

Official West German concern at a further cut in Britain's

defence spending (after the Defence Review target early this year of £4,700m savings) is also a source of strain. A further £100m lopped off the 1976-77 budget (a month later) was voiced at last week's NATO ministerial meetings in Brussels.

Bonn has several real worries. The biggest is the effect of West Germany's action on less staunch and less efficiently trained members of the alliance like The Netherlands, Belgium and Denmark. If they also made further cuts, the overall content of the NATO alliance would be seriously weakened.

If the Bundeswehr alone is living up to its NATO requirements, Eastern block fears of West German militarism might be revived. The Warsaw Pact nations are already calling for a ceiling on West German forces in the East-West talks on forces reductions in Vienna.

It is an irony probably not scoured by Herr Schmidt, that West German Chancellor, that the man seeking defence cuts among overall savings of £3,750m is his old friend Mr Healey, fellow former Defence Minister and co-founder of the European within Nato.

If Mr Healey's axe bites too deeply into the muscle of Britain's forces, Herr Schmidt's irritation at the Labour Government's half-hearted approach to many EEC problems is likely to be sharply exacerbated.

Spanish priest may be tried

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, Dec 18

A worker priest, Father Federico Garcia-Salva, may be brought to trial without the permission of the Archbishop of Madrid, Cardinal Enrique y Tarancón, it was learnt today.

Under the terms of the Concordat of 1953, which governs church-state relations in Spain, the permission of the ecclesiastical authorities is needed before a member of the Roman Catholic clergy is tried.

Father Garcia-Salva was arrested almost two weeks ago when a thousand people gathered at a railway station in Madrid to welcome him back after his release from the special prison for clergymen at Zamora, in the north. The priest is, like Señor Marcelino Camacho, a leader of the ill-fated trade union movement. Both were released under the pardon proclaimed by King Juan Carlos.

The police allege that Father Garcia-Salva organized a communist demonstration at the railway station. Cardinal Enrique y Tarancón told the assembly of Spanish bishops on Monday that the church was ready to accept political changes.

In Valencia, three priests are being prosecuted for reproducing copies of a sermon by the Auxiliary Bishop of Madrid, Mgr. Iniesta.

Nato rebuked for 'leaking' its offer on warheads

Vienna, Dec 18.—The Soviet bloc agreed today to study new Western proposals for military cutbacks in Europe, but said Nato plan to reduce tactical nuclear weapon stocks were inadequate.

Mr Oleg Khlestov, the Soviet delegate, told the East-West conference on troops reduction that the Western proposals, intended to break a 26-month negotiating deadlock, would be examined by communist delegations during a six-week recess, starting today.

But he protested that Nato had sought propaganda advantage in "leaking" the proposals after they were approved by foreign ministers of the Western alliance in Brussels last week.

Nato officials said the Soviet delegate, addressing the 19-nation conference two days after the proposals were tabled, spoke in "tough terms", saying the Western ideas were inadequate, but he had been careful not to reject them.

The 12 Nato delegations have offered to reduce an American stockpile of about 7,200 tactical nuclear weapons in West Germany by about 1,000 warheads in return for big reductions of Soviet block ground forces and tanks in Eastern Europe.

Previously, Nato had insisted on limiting the muscle of the Soviet forces, but they yielded to Soviet demands for a nuclear cutback because Western diplomats believed this was the only way to get the talks moving.

Moluccan leader mediates at consulate

From Sue Macarman
The Hague, Dec 18

The man who succeeded in persuading the six Moluccan gunmen who hijacked a train and held 23 passengers hostage last Sunday has agreed to intervene personally to try to end the siege of the Indonesian Consulate in Amsterdam.

He is Dr Jan Manusama, President of the South Moluccan republic in exile, who so far has remained aloof from efforts to end the siege in Amsterdam although he has appeared on television to the gunmen to surrender.

His intervention followed the apparent failure of all attempts by the Rev Semuel Metari, a Moluccan clergyman who is second in Dr Manusama in the hierarchy of the 33,000-strong Moluccan community in Holland.

Since Friday last week there has been constant friction between Mr Metari and the four Dutch Cabinet Ministers who decide the strategy for tackling the siege.

In six days he had only visited the consulate once, and failed to achieve results. He arrived in Amsterdam tonight an hour after Dr Manusama had started talks at police headquarters there.

Mr Metari had a short talk with Dr Manusama, and then left alone for the consulate. He spent half an hour talking to the gunmen, and left looking happier than after his previous mediation attempts.

Dr Manusama also spoke for eight minutes with the gunmen by telephone.

Dr Manusama's appearance on the scene followed a successful attempt by a Dutch prison psychiatrist, Dr Dick Mulder, aged 50, one of the 19 psychiatrists permanently employed by the Dutch prison services, to win the gunmen's confidence. He appears to have taken over the role of go-between on Wednesday, when Mr Metari failed to turn up to mediate.

The six South Moluccan gunmen have been holding 25 hostages, most of them Indonesians, in the consulate for 15 days.

Their political demands include a meeting in Geneva between the leader of the Moluccans in exile in the Netherlands and President Suharto of Indonesia, the release of South Moluccan political prisoners in Indonesia under supervision of Amnesty International, and the release of all South Moluccans in jail in the Netherlands.

Time appears to be running out for both the Government and the gunmen. The crisis control team, consisting of Mr Joop den Uyl, the Prime Minister, Mr Andreas van Agt, the Minister of Justice, Professor Willem de Groot, Minister of Home Affairs, and Mr Max van der Stoep, the Foreign Minister, are determined to end the siege before Indonesia's independence day on December 17.



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OVERSEAS

Heavy fighting in Mozambique as Frelimo troops resist attempt to overthrow President Machel

Johannesburg, Dec 18.—Mozambique troops and paramilitary units were battling tonight to crush an uprising by dissident soldiers and police 36 hours after fighting broke out, according to radio reports monitored here. Many casualties and arrests were reported in the capital, Lourenço Marques.

There was no word about whether the fighting had spread to Beira, the second biggest city, which has a history of opposition to the Marxist Frelimo Government.

Mozambique radio said that Army, police and civilians were fighting insurgents, but a promised broadcast by President Machel had not taken place. Tracer bullets soared above the city and there was a constant battle of small arms fire, eyewitnesses reported by telephone.

Fighting broke out at midday yesterday, according to Mozambique radio. It blamed the break on reactionary elements and called it "an attempt to stop the campaign against

enemy activities promoting corruption and indiscipline in the armed forces".

This was an apparent reference to a recent purge of the Army and police which, informed observers here believe started the uprising.

Nicholas Ashford writes from Johannesburg: All telephone and telex communications with Lourenço Marques were severed and few details of the armed uprising were available. However, the rebels, described by the radio as "a band of armed reactionaries in uniform", were identified as African.

The fighting appears to have been started by President Machel's campaign to halt corruption and political agitation within the police and the armed forces. According to reports from the former Portuguese territory, he had ordered the arrest of hundreds of civilians, soldiers and police in an anti-corruption purge.

Some of the accused men and women, who are facing charges ranging from murder and armed

robbery to drunkenness and drug addiction, were paraded recently before 5,000 Frelimo supporters attending a rally in Lourenço Marques.

A broadcast report of the rally said the enemies of Mozambique had abandoned the idea of a physical attack from neighbouring countries but were fomenting internal unrest. Their aim was to create "a split between the Government and the masses and between the popular forces and the working classes".

The attempted uprising comes at a time when the Frelimo Government is trying to consolidate its power base within the country. At present Frelimo constitutes only a small minority of the country's nine million population.

S Africa has 1,000 men in Angola, Luanda says

Lagos, Dec 18.—Mr Lopo do Nascimento, Prime Minister of the Luanda-based Angolan Government, said today that South Africa had about 1,000 regular troops in Angola and the numbers were rising.

The South African forces were based as far north as the port of Novo Redondo, 420 miles from the border with South-West Africa, he told a press conference here.

Novo Redondo is only 160 miles south of Luanda where the Government formed by the Soviet-backed Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) is based.

Mr do Nascimento, who arrived here yesterday, said the MPLA would accept offers of troops from any friendly African country in view of increased South African involvement.

But he said the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) had shown "scandalous passivity" while Angola was being occupied by South Africa and the MPLA would not accept troops offered through the OAU.

Mr do Nascimento paraded two captured South African soldiers at the press conference. They were Corporal Hannes Terblanche, aged 21, and Private Robert Wiehahn, aged 20.

The two South African Army mechanics were part of a recently-infiltrated group of 200 and were captured 600 miles beyond the South-West African border last Sunday, he said. Both men looked in good condition though handcuffed and wearing the unmarked drab clothes in which they were captured.

They both said they had been well treated.

Mr do Nascimento told questioners that the Soviet presence on the MPLA side were in Angola to establish a Soviet embassy and in connection with military equipment Moscow was providing.

In Kinshasa, Mr Jonas Savimbi, leader of the National Union for Total Independence of Angola (Unita) said South Africa's forces were in Angola against Unita's wishes.

Nicholas Ashford writes from Johannesburg: A demand that



Corporal Hannes Terblanche, left, and Private Robert Wiehahn at the press conference in Lagos yesterday.

South Africa should disengage its forces from the Angolan civil war as quickly as possible is made in a leading article in the Cape Times which is to be published in the newspaper tomorrow.

The paper, which alone among the South African press has been consistently critical of the country's involvement in the Angolan conflict, says: "Before this country is to be drawn, in ignorance, into a military and diplomatic quagmire, this is the right moment for the public to ponder South Africa's fortunes."

It is a time to call a firm halt, and devise ways and means of getting out not only of foreign involvement but of the threatened diplomatic fiasco.

Mr Fraser reduces size of the Cabinet

Canberra, Dec 18.—Mr Malcolm Fraser, the newly-elected Australian Prime Minister, tonight announced a cabinet of 24, including a woman, to head his Liberal-National Country Party Government. He also said there would be a big reshuffle of Government departments, retaining by name only eight of the 27 which operated under the Labour Government of Mr Gough Whitlam.

Seven departments established by Mr Whitlam's administration are to be scrapped. Their functions will be taken over by new, or renamed, departments.

But Mr Fraser, seeking to achieve a working relationship with the trade unions, made clear that he would maintain the Prices Justification Tribunal, a body set up by Labour to adjudicate on price rises sought by business and industry.

During the three-week campaign before Saturday's general election, which produced a landslide victory for the coalition, Mr Fraser announced his firm intention to abolish the tribunal. Trade union leaders immediately said that if this happened there would be a battle between the Government and the unions.

The new Cabinet contains one big surprise—the omission of Mr Don Chipp, aged 50, who was Social Welfare Minister in Mr Fraser's 32-day caretaker administration formed after Mr Whitlam was dismissed by Sir John Kerr, the Governor-General, on November 11.

Mr Chipp was Customs and Excise Minister in Mr William McMahon's Liberal Government until its defeat by Labour in December, 1972, and had held the Navy and Tourism posts in earlier Liberal administrations.

"I'm very disappointed," he said, adding that Australia in its present economic crisis needed good, stable and honest government and he would make sure the Fraser Government "remains good, stable and honest".

Mr Fraser also moved another leading Liberal adversary by naming Senator Ivor Greenwood, Attorney-General in both the McMahon and caretaker Governments, as Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development. Senator Greenwood drew criticism and protests over his prosecution of

draft resisters during the Vietnam war.

The new Attorney-General is Mr Robert Ellicott, aged 48, a former Solicitor-General who won a parliamentary seat only last year, but was one of Mr Fraser's closest advisers in the constitutional crisis that led to the election.

The woman minister is Senator Margaret Guilfoyle, who will take the Social Security portfolio.

Mr Douglas Anthony, the National Country Party leader, who is Deputy Prime Minister, becomes Minister for Overseas Trade and National Resources.

Other leading Cabinet posts include Mr Andrew Peacock, aged 38, for Foreign Affairs, the post he held in the McMahon Government, and Mr Philip Lynch, aged 42, the Liberal Party's deputy leader, as Treasurer.

Mr Fraser said there would be an inner Cabinet which would decide the Government's chief policies. These 12 ministers are:

Prime Minister: Mr Malcolm Fraser, National Resources and Overseas Trade: Mr Douglas Anthony, Treasury: Mr Philip Lynch, Primary Industry: Mr Ian Sinclair, Administrative Services: Senator Brendan Wilson, Minister of Environment, Housing and Community Development: Senator Ivor Greenwood, Industrial and Commerce: Senator Robert Cotton, Employment and Industrial Relations: Mr Anthony Street, Transport: Mr Peter Nixon, Education and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister in Federal Affairs: Senator John Carrick, Defence: Mr Jim Killen.

Other ministers are: Social Security: Senator Margaret Guilfoyle, Attorney-General: Mr Robert Ellicott, QC, Business and Consumer Affairs: John Howard, Postal and Telecommunications: Mr Victor Gardam, Health: Mr Ralph Hunt, Immigration and Ethnic Affairs: Mr Michael Mackellar, Northern Territory: Mr Albert Adenman.

Capital Territory: Mr Eric Robinson, Construction: Mr John McLeay, Repatriation: Mr Kevin Newman, Science: Senator James Webster, -Reuter and Agence France Presse.

Compromise sought at Paris talks

From Richard Wigg, Roger Violevo and David Blake Paris, Dec 18

The conference on international economic cooperation was tonight moving towards an inconclusive end without agreement by the ministers on the central question of guidelines for the four commissions set up to carry on its work.

Nine of the participants, all chairmen of the various commissions, are likely to meet again in January in an effort to reach agreement. The commissions—on energy, raw materials, development and finance—are expected to start work in early February.

Most of today was spent in separate meetings of the developing and industrialised blocs. The 19 developing and oil-producing states were in almost continuous session, trying to agree on a common position.

As at the preparatory conference here in October, the Algerians insist that precise and inter-related tasks for the commissions should be agreed at the present meeting. They have found it difficult to persuade their partners. There seemed to be signs that the unity of oil producers and developing nations has been strained over the past few days.

The industrialised group is basically in favour of the co-chairmen reconvening in late January.

The situation bears a remarkable similarity to the closing sessions of the preparatory meeting, when both sides spent days looking for a compromise before pushing the problem on to their ministers. Those ministers, or at least those who are still here, may now push that problem on to the co-chairmen.

These are from Canada and Venezuela (co-chairmen of the ministerial conference); the United States and Saudi Arabia (energy); EEC and Algeria (development); Japan and Peru (raw materials); and EEC and Iran (finance).

The conference is meeting in full session this evening for the first time since yesterday afternoon to try to approve the compromise position that any country can raise any topic it wishes in the commissions. Even if they succeed there are still a number of other problems to resolve.

Smith minister gives black rule warning

From Our Correspondent Salisbury, Dec 18

A senior Rhodesian Government minister has come out strongly against any handover to African majority rule in the foreseeable future. Mr Mark Partridge, Minister of Lands and Natural Resources and a founder member of the ruling Rhodesian Front, told his Salisbury constituents that he would not be a party to a handover, which would be in nobody's interest. He believed that his fellow Rhodesian Front MPs agreed.

Mr Partridge said any solution to the constitutional issue reached in the talks between Mr Ian Smith, the Prime Minister, and Mr Joshua Nkomo, leader of the internal faction of the African National Council (ANC) would not give control to an African majority. He disagreed with gloomy predictions about Rhodesia's future, if there were no handover. He believed communications with South Africa would remain open and there was no reason why the present economic battle should be lost. Rhodesia would win the guerrilla war.

The Government was running

the country with justice for all. Medical and educational facilities were second to none and all races were getting a fair deal. "There is no country in Africa that has such a proud record", he said.

"Our only offence in the eyes of the world is that we do not subscribe to the modern fallacy that democracy is the only moral form of government. In all Africa states to the north that form of government had inevitably led to dictatorship and a loss of liberty."

This tough conservative line from a man regarded as a liberal within the Rhodesian Front follows the public meeting in Salisbury earlier this week at which a thousand whites supported the demand by three extreme right-wing groups that a referendum must be held on any possible agreement reached by Mr Nkomo.

Although Mr Partridge does not share their views, his remarks reflect a concern among the 27,000 whites over a possible deal by Mr Smith that would see Mr Nkomo or some other black nationalist in power in a very few years.

Chile sets 164 free but omits Dr Cassidy

Santiago, Dec 18.—The name of Dr Sheila Cassidy was not among those read out by President Augusto Pinochet of Chile today when he ordered the immediate release of 164 people detained for giving aid and comfort to fugitive left-wing guerrillas. Four of those to be freed are Roman Catholic priests.

Despite protests from the British Government, Dr Cassidy is still being held in the Tres Alamos detention centre here. She was arrested on November 1 in a police raid on a religious centre where she had been giving medical treatment to a wounded leader of the Revolutionary Movement of the Left (MIR), Señor Nelson Gutiérrez.

Señor Gutiérrez is now in the Papal Nunciature (Vatican Embassy) here and another MIR leader, Señor Andrés Pascal Allende, nephew of the

late President, has taken refuge in the Costa Rican Embassy.

Earlier today a military court martial board upheld a military judge's decision last month that Dr Cassidy could not be tried for helping Señor Gutiérrez to escape and seek political asylum. Her lawyer argued that she "had committed a fault and not a crime" in not advising the authorities that she had given the wanted man medical aid.—Reuter and UPI.

Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes: The Chilean Ambassador, Rear-Admiral Kaore Olsen, was called to the Foreign Office in London yesterday for the fifth time about Dr Cassidy's continued detention. In the strongest protest yet made, he was informed by Mr Edward Rowlands, Parliamentary Under Secretary, that further delay in consideration of her case would be regarded as "inexcusable and unacceptable".

British relations with Kampala back to normal

Diplomatic relations between Britain and Uganda have been restored to normal after more than three years.

Mr James Hennessy, acting British High Commissioner in Kampala, is to be High Commissioner. Uganda's acting High Commissioner in London has also been nominated High Commissioner.

Relations deteriorated in 1972 when President Amin expelled more than 20,000 Asians who held British passports. Mr Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, visited Kampala last summer.

Lisbon offer to UN on Timor

New York, Dec 18.—Portugal offered in the United Nations Security Council today to send its troops back to East Timor under United Nations sponsorship and to maintain peace in the territory until its people have determined their own future.

Señor José Manuel Gaires Teles, the Portuguese representative, called for the withdrawal of Indonesian forces from East Timor and an Indonesian pledge of non-interference in the affairs of the territory.—UPI.

Solzhenitsyn US citizenship move now a dead letter

From Fred Emery Washington, Dec 18

The proposal in the United States Congress to grant Alexander Solzhenitsyn honorary American citizenship is now virtually a dead letter, congressional sources confirmed today.

Last March, the Senate passed its half of the enabling resolution, but the matter lies "pending" before the House of Representatives Judiciary subcommittee. No hearings are set.

No disrespect is intended. The fact is that the majority on Capitol Hill understands that the gift of citizenship is extremely rare and precious, having been granted by Congress only once—to Sir Winston Churchill (Lafayette got his another way).

The State Department expressed its opposition in a letter to the House as long ago as July 7, when Mr Solzhenitsyn was in the country and Dr Kissinger, Secretary of State, was advising President Ford not to receive him in order not to upset détente.

Senior State Department officials insist there was no connection between protecting

Mr Bush obliged to quit politics as head of CIA

From Our Own Correspondent Washington, Dec 18

Mr George Bush's nomination as director of the Central Intelligence Agency seemed assured of Senate approval today after President Ford ceded to political pressure and gave a written undertaking that he would not consider Mr Bush as his vice-presidential candidate next year.

Had Mr Bush been chosen as the Republican candidate, the badly shaken CIA would have had to seek another new director within six months.

His nomination has been approved by 124 in the Senate armed services committee. Mr Bush still needs confirmation by the full Senate before he can succeed Mr William Colby.

Mr Bush was a Congressman, an amiable but forgettable representative at the United Nations, and head of the American mission in Peking.

Castro account of plots amuses party

Havana, Dec 18.—Dr Fidel Castro, the Cuban Prime Minister, drew laughter from the Cuban Communist Party congress today when he described elaborate plots by the United States Central Intelligence Agency to murder or discredit him.

It was his first public comment on the CIA plots disclosed by an American Senate investigation.

Dr Castro described the publication of the results of the American Senate committee investigation of CIA activities as a "positive step".

There were smiles among the three thousand delegates and 85 foreign delegations when Dr Castro spoke of a CIA scheme to expose him to ridicule by poisoning his cigars with a drug which would cause disorientation before he delivered a speech. Many burst into laughter when he told of a powder which was supposed to be spread on his boots to make his beard fall out.—Reuter.

In brief

Uganda Cabinet member held

Nairobi, Dec 18.—Uganda's Director of Planning and Economic Development, Mr John Kabanda, a member of the Cabinet, and Mr George Magezi, managing director of the state-owned Uganda Textiles Board, have been arrested on the orders of the Anti-Corruption Committee, it was announced in Kampala.

Other senior officials including Cabinet ministers were likely to be arrested, it was said. Large sums of money had been illegally exported.

Nightclub gutted

New York, Dec 18.—With seven known to be dead, firemen searched the charred interior of the Blue Angel club off Park Avenue to see if people who went back for coats and hats also had perished in a blaze early today.

Editor murdered

Casablanca, Dec 18.—Omar Benjelloun, editor of the daily paper, El Moudjahid, and a leader of the left-wing Socialist Union of Popular Forces in Morocco, was beaten to death with an iron bar outside his home today.

Fragile ceasefire

Beirut, Dec 18.—Outbursts of shooting in and around Beirut, in which at least two bystanders were killed, hampered efforts to clear the streets of gunmen as the authorities tried to enforce the new ceasefire begun on Monday.

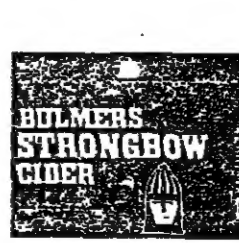
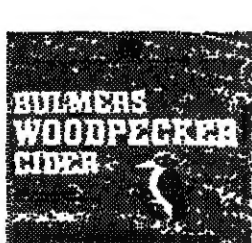
Journalist stabbed

Mr Uri Avneri, Israeli magazine editor who advocates the establishment of an Arab Palestinian state alongside Israel, was stabbed today at his home in Tel Aviv. He was taken to hospital.

Breaking away

Castries, St Lucia, Dec 18.—St Lucia announced officially that it will seek full independence from Britain.

There are a number of ways to join the great cider revival.



When you're going on business, take a holiday.

USA from £165 return, including 7 nights in a hotel.

With Pan Am's World Winter One Weekers you get a return economy flight to the American city of your choice, plus seven nights in a centrally located hotel, all for less than the scheduled return fare.

Your Flight

You leave London Heathrow on a regularly scheduled 747 Pan Am Jet Clipper. Then sample some real American hospitality. Lunch with a choice of three entrees; two films to choose from and eight tracks of stereo music* to listen to—the time flies by.

Your Room

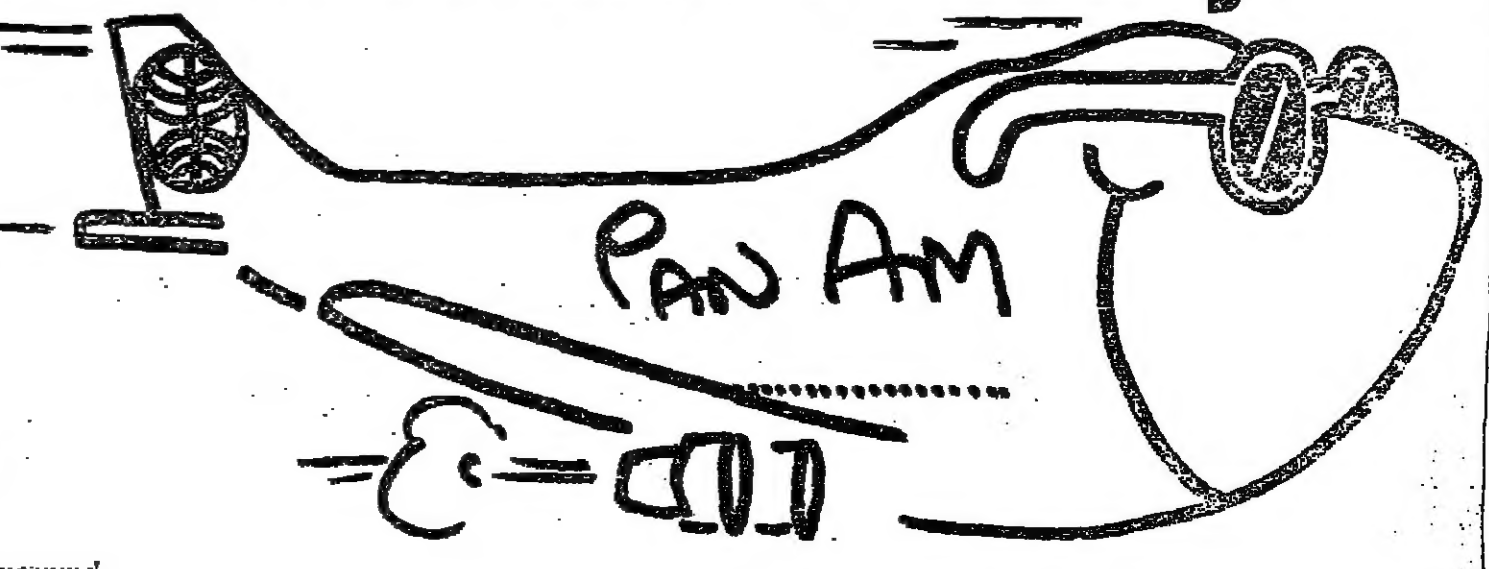
Your return flight plus seven nights in a shared double room with its own private bathroom (a single room will

cost a little more) will cost you £374 in San Francisco (Beaumont); £225 in Washington (Mid Town Inn); £165 in New York (Century Paramount). And in most cities, you can choose between three grades of hotel. There's also the Roosevelt from £225 and the Waldorf-Astoria from £237 in New York.

All prices well below the scheduled economy class fare—with a hotel and a city sightseeing tour included. And we can arrange a Pan Am World One Weeker to practically any city in the USA. Just ask us.

Great! What do I do now? Just fill in the coupon, and we'll send you a full colour brochure telling you more about our One Weekers in the United States. Or simply ask your Travel Agent.

PAN AM
TAKE A BREATH OF FRESH AIRWAYS



West Bank worried by 'brain drain'

from Eric Marsden
Jerusalem, Dec 18

Alarmed by a drain of brain and muscle across the Jordanian West Bank, the Jordanian government is appealing to the Arab states for help to check the flow. It is estimated that in the past four months, 1,700 professionals and skilled workers, and several thousands more building workers and other labourers, have been taken into Jordan, Iraq, and Arabia and the Gulf states.

Arab leaders are worried particularly about the sudden loss of doctors. As a result of an investigation by the Chief Medical Officer of Abu Dhabi, on behalf of the Gulf States, more than 100 West Bank doctors crossed the border. Another 20 have gone in the past two weeks.

The phenomenon is caused by a combination of factors: a boom in the Arab countries, which has caused a demand for skilled labour, any of the Arab workers who are tempted by high wages in Israel's building trade, which is now under a severe labour strain, are travelling in the opposite direction.

The Arab Federation of Engineers of Commerce in the West Bank has estimated that thousands of jobs have been created in Saudi Arabia, for which \$5,000 (\$2,500) has been allocated. Jordan's five-year plan and other ones in the emirates. As a result, civil and electrical engineers, surveyors, architects and other skilled workers and craftsmen on the West Bank are being made for four or five times their present salaries in the Gulf, and in some cases, doctors, who were being paid between \$150 and \$220 a month, are now being paid \$1,000 a month, or more.

At black market rates, money is worth 30 per cent more. Labourers were also to earn four times the wage they received in Jordan. The Arabs leaving the West Bank are given one-year exit visas by Israel. They are mainly people who have qualified in a trade or profession since the 1967 war with Israel.

Older ones who were in government service before the 1967 war, still receive pay from Jordan as well as from the Arab authorities.

The departure of so many young educated Palestinians is causing concern for political, economic and social reasons to the Jordanian government. The Jordanian government is a nationalist ambitions fear the West Bank may be losing men in the campaign for a Palestinian state.

The shortage of engineers and craftsmen is being felt in the West Bank. The Jordanian government is having difficulty in finding replacements for two electrical engineers who have one to work on the new joint electricity system being set up in Jordan and Syria.

An Arab commented: "We are having a brain drain. When we do it, it is always a local girl marrying a man who has come over from Jordan or the ceremony and will be taking his bride back."

Walk-out in Unesco after Zionism vote

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Dec 18

The EEC countries, the United States, Israel, Australia and Canada, today walked out of a Unesco intergovernmental conference of experts on the role of racism in media, after a decision to brand Zionism as a form of racism. The text of the resolution, which followed closely the one adopted last month by the United Nations, defined Zionism as "a form of racism and racial discrimination".

The decision was carried by 36 votes to 22 with seven abstentions, including Japan.

Mr Amadou Mahtar Mbow, director-general of Unesco, said in a radio interview today that it was "a very important decision" to identify the conference of experts on the role of racism in media, after a decision to brand Zionism as a form of racism. "It is only when the executive council of the general conference has made such a decision that we will be able to talk of a Unesco decision", he said.

It would be premature to say anything about the attitude of the organization at this stage. "I consider that the authors of this proposal attempted to present it as a compromise between divergent viewpoints, to represent it as a stand of Unesco against any country whatever", he said.

The resolution was the subject of heated discussions in the text which called on all media to combat racism, with particular mention of its separate manifestations of Zionism, were unsuccessful. The text agreed unanimously referred specifically to the resolution voted by the United Nations General Assembly on November 10.

Mr Ibrahim Scaife, of the Palestine Liberation Organization, said after the vote that it was "an additional contribution of the international community to a just and durable peace in which the rights of all peoples in the area are respected".

The American delegation sent a letter to the chairman of the experts' conference saying that the identification of Zionism with racism was "unacceptable".

Liquidator's payment of rent arrears not deductible

Mr Justice Fox

Before Lord Justice Fox

Before Lord Justice Fox

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MR JUSTICE FOX said that the question was whether certain payments made by a company in liquidation were deductible in computing chargeable gains arising on disposal of the company's assets.

The relevant enactments were in Schedule 6 to the Finance Act, 1965. Paragraph 4 (1) provided that the sums allowable as a deduction from the consideration for the disposal of an asset were:

(a) the amount of any expenditure incurred wholly and exclusively for the purpose of enhancing the value of the asset, and

(b) the amount of any expenditure incurred wholly and exclusively for the purpose of preserving or defending the title to, or a right over, the asset.

Paragraph 5 (2) required that the sums allowable as a deduction from the consideration for the disposal of an asset were:

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value of the lease the company had to pay off the arrears. Such payment was simply a liability incurred by the company, and it could be that the payment was incurred in "preserving" the company, title to the asset, without deciding that point, the court assumed that it was an expense incurred by the company, and that accordingly the company could have brought itself within the provisions of paragraph 4(1)(b).

Paragraph 5 (2) required the court to assume that the lease was held as part of the fixed capital of the company, and that the profits and gains of such trade were chargeable to income tax. The question was whether, bearing these assumptions in mind, the expenditure would be allowable as a deduction in computing the company's chargeable gains of income tax.

If a lease was part of the fixed capital of a trade, a payment of rent made in accordance with the covenants in the lease was clearly allowable as a deduction in computing the company's chargeable gains of income tax. The question was whether, bearing these assumptions in mind, the expenditure would be allowable as a deduction in computing the company's chargeable gains of income tax.

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Chelsea and Nottingham Forest wanted to switch but none of them

Time for Ormond and Scotland to worry

Surtees seeks sponsorship with new car

British party to resume their preparations

[illegible]

London and Scotland

Aspirants for have much in

By Joyce Whitehead

hockey tournaments almost immediately after Christmas. West's first series came in January, when the team played a six-day gathering at Weston-super-Mare from December 29 to January 3. The series was played on a single ice rink, and the only one that night. Dorset beat Somerset, Wiltshire beat Cornwall and Devon drew with Herefordshire. The following week, West played a championship match, both Mrs Sadler and Mrs Malcolm, both players of international fame, have been prepared to play for West for several years. Whether two players can make a great difference remains to be seen but it is a possibility. West has beaten their opponents. So Gloucestershire, last season's West champions, will wonder, will be hoping for great things.

West's East champions last season, but they go to their tournament at Folkestone from December 28 to 31 being for second place behind Herefordshire. It is Suffolk, however far from the top, who have been the surprise of the season. The East draw still leaves each of the three top counties with two particularly keen matches to play in Folkestone.

Gloucestershire, the holders, Surrey, have done well. They have won their four matches and scored 15 goals with none against them. However, their two opponents, Devon and Somerset, are runners-up. Buckinghamshire and Middlesex, too, perhaps more convincing

Land to worry

day. The rest of his time is spent at school (learning Spanish) and in running a squash club. He intends to become a professional when the championship is over and on that score may be offered a very urgent incentive. But it would be unreasonable to expect much more of Azis than Ian Holding, who has been the champion, offered him 9-5, 9-4—9-3 last evening.

Holding's short game let him down in the first three games. Faced to engage the massive Shawcross in brick, erode-inducing attrition. But Shawcross had enough confidence in his fitness to be 'discreet. He also had a wider range of shots and a greater capacity for the unexpected. Granted a command of the court and control, the man with the ability to finish the rallies—often by deception—usually wins. But Holding's experience and anticipation may match the facility of his footwork.

Britain's leading amateur, Philip Ayres. Last evening he defeated Stuart Courtney, ranked second to him, 9-5, 9-4, 9-3. Courtney had the better shots but was erratic in playing them. Azis deserved credit for this, because he was not only a good player, but a reliever—which his opponent could not match—forced Courtney to reduce his margin of error to a minimum and to play for a request for winners. The Egyptian's game had just enough variety to work Courtney hard and as the match progressed he became increasingly confident without being reckless. His was an admirably disciplined, resolute and intelligent game, the best grammar of the game.

Stage for five champions

than it really is. In this territory they score three points for a win and one for a draw. In three of the others there are only two and one.

Such is the North and Midlands tournaments there are nine counties. An Ekekeras team is based in the North and Bedford CPE in the Midlands. The other seven teams do not count for the championship. Durham have won four times, the North have only played four, the other seven counties only three. So Durham's two-point lead over Bedford and Northampton means a close contest to follow. Durham have won their four matches, Lancashire and Shetland have won three and Leicestershire have scored 18 goals to Durham's 14 and the League's seven. So this tournament at St Anne's on 26 November 28 to 31 will be an exciting one.

In the Midlands something strange will have to happen at the tournament in Bedford from 29 to 31 January. If Leicestershire, the holders, are to be in the top half, their results have been four 1-1 draws. They seemed to have so many players that their captain, Mr. C. L. Lachue who played with the English touring team in Jamaica during the summer, was dropped. Of the teams which have played four matches Staffordshire (last season's runners-up) are in the lead with seven points and Nottinghamshire close behind with six.

So the five territorial county champions will be known as well as the five territorial teams for 1976.

By Neil Allen

Shorter has submitted a statement to the AAD

Show jumping

Elizabeth Edgar and Mayday, holders of the national title, won the Radcliffe Cup. Cracker S. J. won the Olympia International Show yesterday.

His brother, David Brown, won the first prize in the second year round in 31.10, which was good enough to beat Saywell at bay on a black Saddle Creek (S. J. S. bred) Cassock (13.56 sec).

But Francis Mathy and Duror were clear in 33.1 sec, and the latter won his first win of the week.

Mrs Edgar retrieved the forfeitures in a conclusive tie.

Nelson Pessoa, the French Brazilian who has been shown in Europe for 20 years, won the first prize in the Punch, to win the Radio Reunion, the first important event of the International Show Show.

David Brown was runner-up, with the only other winner, the Frenchman, on the night.

David Brown was runner-up, with the only other winner, the Frenchman, on the night.

Nine horses qualified for marriage and the West German champion, Harwig.

Pessoa, the Derby specialist, was also a winner at this time, two years ago, his job as a support horse, and an interesting new partnership.

Fast and accurate, wearing a pair of Brown by 1.56 sec with the French Baroque (The Show).

Results: Radio Reunion Cup: 1. Nelson Pessoa (F), 2. David Brown (S. J. S.), 3. Elizabeth Edgar (S. J. S.), 4. Mayday (S. J. S.), 5. Cracker S. J. (S. J. S.), 6. Cracker S. J. (S. J. S.), 7. Cracker S. J. (S. J. S.), 8. Cracker S. J. (S. J. S.), 9. Cracker S. J. (S. J. S.), 10. Cracker S. J. (S. J. S.), 11. Cracker S. J. (S. J. S.), 12. Cracker S. J. (S. J. S.), 13. Cracker S. J. (S. J. S.), 14. Cracker S. J. (S. J. S.), 15. Cracker S. J. (S. J. S.), 16. Cracker S. J. (S. J. S.), 17. Cracker S. J. (S. J. S.), 18. Cracker S. J. (S. J. S.), 19. Cracker S. J. (S. J. S.), 20. Cracker S. J. (S. J. S.), 21. Cracker S. J. (S. J. S.), 22. Cracker S. J. (S. J. S.), 23. Cracker S. J. (S. J. S.), 24. Cracker S. J. (S. J. S.), 25. Cracker S. J. (S. J. S.), 26. Cracker S. J. (S. J. S.), 27. Cracker S. J. (S. J. S.), 28. Cracker S. J. (S. J. S.), 29. Cracker S. J. (S. J. S.), 30. Cracker S. J. (S. J. S.), 31. Cracker S. J. (S. J. S.), 32. Cracker S. J. (S. J. S.), 33. Cracker S. J. (S. J. S.), 34. 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Yemen takes a softer line to win Arab support

Mr Mahmoud Sa'ad Medhi, 32, is a graduate of the London School of Economics. His youthful, slightly scruffy appearance and mild intellectual manner make one think that he might easily have stayed there as a graduate student or junior lecturer. Instead, he is Minister of Commerce in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDY) and tipped to become Finance Minister in an imminent Government reshuffle.

He is thus uniquely qualified to expound the difficulties of managing South Yemen's economy and the principles of "scientific socialism" on which the Government is attempting to do it. He explains that the National Front inherited a country in which agriculture was under-developed and primitive, in which there were virtually no roads or internal communications, and no industry apart from the BP oil refinery at Little Aden. Traditional handicrafts had been killed by competition from imported commodities. More than 80 per cent of the population was illiterate. There was no higher education, far fewer schools than were needed, and no surveys of the country's economic potential or mineral resources.

There was a large government deficit, aggravated by a British decision to raise salaries immediately before independence, and huge foreign trade deficits, caused by the low level of exports, the country's nearly total dependence on imports for its requirements of foodstuffs, capital and consumer goods, and medicines, and the loss of its main source of foreign exchange—services to ships passing through the Suez Canal. There was heavy unemployment, especially in the countryside, a low per capita income, and no studies to identify the most promising fields for economic development—for which in any case the country's financial position made it hard to locate resources. The heights of the economy—banking, shipping, insurance, oil distribution—were dominated by foreign firms.

The Government has sought to break free from this extreme underdevelopment along a "non-capitalist" path. A law of November, 1974, nationalized banking, insurance, navigation and internal oil distribution, and set up national companies for domestic and foreign trade. Since then nine principal commodities, including basic foodstuffs, machinery and medicines, have been imported exclusively by the public sector. This was followed in 1970 by an agrarian reform law which redistributed land for use, not ownership, and encouraged the peasants to form co-operatives.

State farms have also been set up, farmers have been educated, and production has been centrally planned with a view to achieving self-sufficiency in wheat, maize, vegetables and fruit (for the last two it is already a reality). This law was enforced not by the police but by Government-sponsored "peasant uprisings" against the landowners, rather on the lines of what occurred in the period in Chile and more recently in Portugal, but apparently under tighter party control.

Edward Mortimer

There has been a good deal of amusement, and about the same amount of indignation, at the British Leyland carworkers' strike that was provoked by a stray cat. For those who missed the details, it seems that the workers arriving at the factory found that they had been preceded by an imperfectly house-trained cat (I must make it perfectly clear at this point that it wasn't my darling Tiddles), so 600 workers naturally refused to work until the cat's traces had been removed. This was duly done by the cleaners, though it is not known whether the air was also sprayed with Misoouko, or pounce-boxes distributed among the workforce, and work was resumed, or rather not resumed but resumed not started because it was noticed that where the cleaners' energetically plied mop had been there was (as is commonly the case where mops have been, some people even holding that that is the point of a mop) some damp on the floor. Tools were dented, or at any rate not picked up (or perhaps picked up solely for the symbolic purpose of being dented), and the men went into convulsion to discuss this further outrage to their susceptibilities. While they were thus engaged, it is to be presumed that the history is silent on the point that the mop-caused dampness dried, from natural causes, but at that point a further complication arose, the management (or whatever that odd-looking thing over there is, with patches of mould sprouting on it) declaring that they would be docked for the time spent on the meeting. At this, a strike broke out, and for all I know

continues still, so that the flow of British Leyland motor cars, already much attenuated recently, looks likely to diminish still further. There, as newspapers used to say in the days when bodies were for ever being found in suitcases deposited in the cloakroom at Victoria Station (the line is immaterial), the matter rests at present.

Now, you can have five minutes to laugh and five minutes to splutter, and then we shall be serious.

First, let us make a huge leap of the imagination, and assume that the idiots who went on strike because the cat sat on the mat are sufficiently aware of the condition of the British car industry in general and British Leyland in particular to know that such action is likely to bring measurably nearer the day when the production of cars in Britain ceases altogether and the number of workers in the industry is reduced not by one-third, as in the Chrysler proposals, but by three-thirds. Of course, they also know that with a Government like the present one, it is likely that the thousands of millions of pounds it is already proposed to pour down the bottomless drain of British Leyland and Chrysler, not one penny of which will ever be seen again, will be followed by many more thousands of millions of pounds, and no doubt there is truth in the contention that playing silly-buggers round a couple of cats is red herrings in what you would expect from people protected by the nice, warm feeling that whatever they do or don't do, and whether they work or not, and whether anybody wants to buy the cars they produce, or for that matter the ones they do not produce, they will still have the same jobs at the same pay until they die, and their

Bernard Levin



children after them, and their children's children, ever unto the fortieth generation, while all the time the cat sat on the mat and down squawking at the report, published in the "Social Contract".

It may be so. Indeed, to some extent it undoubtedly is so. But before we leave it there, come with me to the report, published yesterday, of the Work Research Unit of the Department of Employment, and then let us look at the report, published the day before, by the Central Policy Review Staff, on the British car industry. And then let us wonder whether the problem may not be rather more complex than one of Leyland workers who know that the Government will always intervene to make sure that they do not have to pay the price of their disinclination to work.

It is often said that the cry of "lazy workers" is always raised by people who are themselves in receipt of incomes far greater than any industrial worker, so who are they to talk? That charge is untrue, but I am not concerned with it today.

What is true, and true almost without exception, is that those who grumble at the laziness, irresponsibility, selfishness and dishonesty of industrial workers are doing work which, though it may not be as highly paid as that of, say, many an engineering worker, miner or newspaper compositor, is much more interesting. The "think-tank" report suggests that the total collapse of the British car industry is inevitable if something is not done about what it calls the "rench warfare" attitude that prevails throughout it, together with the poor standards of workmanship and other fundamental weaknesses. The other report, by the Work Research Unit, suggests some reasons for the attitudes that the think-tank condemns.

Among the chief of these are the repetitiveness of so much work, the lack of freedom to take decisions, and the impersonal nature of the organization in which the work is done. As Mr Gilbert Jessup, the Unit's director, said in his interview with Roger Berthoud published yesterday: "If people come into a factory and find no incentive to work hard they rapidly switch off."

It is no use saying that they should not need to be provided with incentives; that they have contracted to do a fair day's work every day, in return for generally high wages, and if they do not work hard they are engaged in it. That is perfectly true, but saying it does not help to stop them failing to deliver the goods. And the reason they fail to deliver the goods is not just laziness or dishonesty, any more than the British Leyland workers who went on strike against an incompetent pussy-cat were deliberately using an excuse to do less work than they had agreed to.

I wouldn't do a car-worker's job for ten thousand pounds a week; no would most of my readers, and the goes for any other mechanical or repetitive labour. Most of such work has long ceased to be physically crushing; it has not ceased to be emotionally, psychologically or spiritually crushing. Repetitive work which involves no initiative on the part of the worker is the lot of much of the labour force in countries like Britain, and something has got to be done to change it. The Work Research Unit puts forward a number of suggestions, and I hope they will be pursued. But I am not here discussing the merits of which we may begin to transform our industrial society: I only wish to argue that I have got to be transformed, and the until it is we shall see strikes over who bores the holes, and where cat sat, rather than themselves, and how many beams make five.

A great deal of industrial labour will inevitably remain repetitive and can never have anything better than a very low level of choice-making initiative built into it. More over (though it is unfashionable to mention the fact), many of those engaged in it are incapable of initiative, and many are too stupid to do anything but a simple and repeated task. But that leaves a huge field still to sow, and a huge harvest still to reap. If some of the energy expended on denouncing the cat strikers of British Leyland were to be put instead into seeking out the causes of whatever it is that such actions are the symptoms of, we might one day get to a point at which such actions would seem just as ridiculous to those engaged in them as they do now to the rest of us.

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Changes Spain must make to become part of the European Community

David Rudnick, a research specialist at the Royal Institute of International Affairs, examines the factors likely to influence the pace of reform in post-Franco Spain.

It is generally appreciated that the process of transition from Franco to post-Franco Spain is going to prove a delicate and potentially dangerous task, not rendered any easier by the Caudillo's extended stay in power. Much will depend on the Cabinet team which is selected by Señor Arias, now confirmed as Prime Minister, since the 37-year-old king is admirably suited to the role of a constitutional monarch rather than a more activist role.

The situation is not really, as is sometimes claimed, one of political vacuum. It is true that throughout his three and a half decades of personal rule Franco systematically played off one group against another, taking care to remain the essential linchpin, the keyman in the arch of government. But while he successfully played the classic game of "divide and rule", arbitrating between Falange and monarchists, the National Movement (a essential element of the Regime), and the Opus Dei reconstructed, in the end one group came out on top as a broadly but clearly defined elite. This is the business elite, the so-called civilized or new right of industrialists, bankers and big business directors. It is these men, aided and abetted by the Armed Forces, who have quietly become the de facto masters of Spain, bulwarks and beneficiaries of the new capitalism of Spain's great leap forward.

Francisco's acceptance over twenty years ago of western—in particular American—economic penetration of Spain implied a definite rejection of the isolationist economic nationalism with its economic nationalism, its autarchy, its distaste for capitalism and its typically

facist championing of the small farmer and artisan entrepreneur over large-scale business.

The technocrats of Desarrollo (economic development)—men like López Rodó and Fraga Iribarne—brought a brusque, no-nonsense atmosphere to the stagnant, previously inward-looking Spanish economy, which was transformed, in almost Japanese fashion by successive years of high growth and industrialization.

Today, the future appears to lie with the new capitalists; but as their position really as strong as it might seem? In keeping with their economic doctrines, they are by and large sympathetic to reforms designed to update Spain's archaic and illiberal political structure; many of them have deliberately distanced themselves from the regime to emphasize the fact. But the task confronting them is none the less a formidable one; they have to find and maintain just the right pace for reform, not so fast as to trigger off a putsch by the ultras of the Bunker, nor so slow as to stimulate active discontent from groups to their left.

The new leadership will also have to resist the threatening noises that may in any event be expected from the far right. To rebut the charge of the left that they are perpetuating Francoism without Franco (and using the bunker as an alibi), Juan Carlos and his lieutenants will have to temper "realism" about the entrenched power of the police forces (with courage and realism, there is a notorious thin dividing line between realism and appeasement, between appeasement and collaboration).

But the dividing line between the far right and the "civilized" classical right is similarly blurred in many cases; ownership of the state and a share in the spoils of industrialization generally are not the prerogative of the architects of the new capitalism. Just as in nineteenth-century Britain, feudal scions of the old order infiltrated the new order, so in Spain today there

is a considerable harmony of class interest uniting the old and the new right.

What degree of cooperation may be expected from the various factions of the Left? For how long will they patiently give the new government the benefit of the doubt, and rest content to wait on their inheritance? The answer lies in one's interpretation of that last word, whether it is taken to have primarily political or economic significance. Wages constitute 48 per cent of Spain's national income (70 per cent in Britain), so there is clearly scope for more or less equitable distribution of income. This no longer so likely to come from continuing growth in today's tougher economic climate, and with inflation eroding the purchasing power of wage increases it may well be economic rather than political fears and discontent that provide the Government with its biggest headaches. Economic grievances have a habit of being politicized too.

Economic freedom brings its own pitfalls. Hitherto, the Spanish worker has received a degree of feather-bedding by the regime in the form of a greater job security than compensation for his lack of political freedom. The company sector has in the past frequently borne the brunt of recessions, with redundant workers kept on to disguise unemployment. But this rigidity will have to be replaced by a more rational labour market policy. Spain's aspiration (shared by wide sections of political opinion) to join the EEC is to be met. The pursuit of international competitiveness through cutting labour costs means however that countervailing welfare measures will have to be taken to avoid hardship to the proletarian masses. Moves towards pluralism, representative government are doubtless awaited with impatience abroad, but inside Spain they are more concerned with bread and butter issues like higher wages, improved social security, and increased unemployment benefits. These issues are not met, and the government still abandons the feather-bedding policies of Francoism, the result

could be explosive. The problem is hardly eased by the existence of a sizable balance of payments deficit.

A similar dilemma faces the conservative reformers with respect to the state-run, vertically organized trade unions, the Sindicatos. The vast bureaucratic ramifications of the Sindicatos employ an estimated 150,000 people; if the whole apparatus is superseded by class-based, horizontally organized unions on the familiar western pattern, then an added problem of labour deployment (at a time of high unemployment) will have to be solved. Paradoxically, it is the Communists who could most benefit from this situation. The need will have to be grasped sooner or later, and the government will have to recognize the unofficial Workers Committees (Comisiones Obreras), the real trade union power in the land. Furthermore, the EEC will accept Spain only if she does scrap the Sindicato, since it is a far less militant organ than the Comisiones, and would therefore distort free (labour) competition, the basis on which the EEC works.

In general terms, all political groups realize that extremism—of either right or left—would put paid to Spanish membership of the Community. Continuing international confidence is going to prove a crucial factor in keeping Spain on the course later, and Foreign Capital has lost great deal in Portugal over the past year, and facile (and mistaken) comparisons could damage prospects for stability in Spain by frightening investors away. America is the leading investor (\$500m), followed by Germany (\$30m), Switzerland (\$35m), France (\$25m) and Britain (\$10m). If foreign investment holds up, the credibility of the government will of course be greatly enhanced at home and abroad. If not, prophecies of doom and gloom could well turn out to be self-fulfilling.

The author is a research specialist at the Royal Institute of International Affairs.

Backstage move may upset new Zionist election

Tel Aviv
The main issue in the election of a new chairman of the World Zionist Executive next month is the backstage attempt by the Prime Minister of Israel, Mr Rabin, to influence its outcome by supporting the Labour Party candidate, Mayor Josef Aloni, against Mr Arye Leib Dulsin, who has been acting chairman since the death of Mr Pinhas Sapir in August.

The chairman will be chosen by the Zionist General Council which meets in Jerusalem on January 3. The executive's 21 members and an equal number of representatives of Jewish appeal funds abroad make up the executive of the Jewish Agency which controls an annual budget of £300m for immigration, settlement and education.

The fund raisers have agreed that both candidates are acceptable and whoever wins the Zionist elections will later be chosen chairman of the Jewish Agency. Mr Aloni is a Labour Party stalwart who gained a reputation in government, municipal and trade union affairs but has not held office in the Zionist organization. Mr Dulsin, a Zionist official for decades, has protested against the Prime Minister's intervention: "If we allow the Government to impose its candidate," he said, "we convert ourselves into a branch of the Government."

The Government's present aim is a Jewish Agency and Zionist leadership which will be close to the administration. Mr Dulsin agreed that close cooperation and understanding were essential, but he insisted that the Zionist organization must be independent.

The body which is to elect the chairman is a wide political spectrum which meets annually between Zionist congresses. All but 20 of its 110 members represent Israel parties or affiliates overseas. Eight are British. The pattern was set before Israel was established when the Zionist Executive had been a shadow government of the nascent Jewish state. Mr Dulsin said the system was now obso-

lete and advocated reforms to limit and eventually eliminate the power of the parties. Mr Aloni argued that as long as the organization was a political body and operated on a democratic basis, the majority would prevail. Mr Dulsin, he pointed out, has been nominated by a political party, since Labour and its traditional coalition partners constituted a clear majority, they had the right to choose their man.

The elections take place at a time of revived rivalry here for the Zionist organization. Israel's independence when its top leaders and major functions went to the Government. Zionism became Hebrew slang for "not us". However, the recent United Nations conference on Zionism as racist awakened interest in the movement. Mr Aloni's and Mr Dulsin's political differences are not issues the Zionist organization deals with. The Likud candidate, for example, criticized the Government's internal agreement with Egypt. Mr Aloni claimed such criticism of government policies by a chairman of the Jewish Agency was harmful, no matter how much he stressed he was speaking privately.

Mr Dulsin, 62, a successful businessman in Mexico, became active in Zionist affairs there and was the first Latin American elected to the World Zionist Executive. He settled in Jerusalem 19 years ago after his election. When the Likud Party joined Mrs Meir's government in 1970, he served briefly as Minister without Portfolio. He emigrated from Poland in 1930. Like a typical member of the Israel ruling establishment, he belonged to a kibbutz, served in the Jewish underground during British rule, became a trade union organizer and served in the Cabinet as Minister of Labour. In 1973 he was elected Mayor of Haifa. He travelled extensively on fund raising missions and gained familiarity with Jewish communities around the world.

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A GOVERNMENT HEALTH WARNING

The Times Diary

I spy a new discipline

What claims to be the world's first university course for studying intelligence services has just completed its first term at Sweden's second oldest university, Lund. A small independent institute attached to the university's faculty of social sciences has been called the Research Policy Programme, and more popularly known as the Lund Spy School.

The founder and organizer of the course, as well as its chief lecturer, is Professor Stefan Dedjic, a brother of the Yugoslav partisan leader and author, Vladimir Dedjic. Professor Dedjic, who now has Swedish nationality, has varied experience to qualify him for his task.

After study at Princeton he became a journalist on the American Daily Worker, and was imprisoned for some months for communist activities. During the war he was parachuted with the American forces. Afterwards he returned to Yugoslavia to become, successively, deputy chief of the state news agency Tanjug, editor of the chief communist paper, Borba, and director of Yugoslavia's atomic physics institute before quarrelling with the regime and emigrating. He has been at Lund since 1961.

A sturdy, red-faced man who wears expensive tweed suits, he now looks like a English country squire. He delivers his lectures in English, with a strong American accent.

His institute deals with all kinds of intelligence operations

—business, industrial and social as well as military and political. He claims that it can fill "gaping loopholes" in academic studies. "Two hundred countries have intelligence organizations, yet nobody studies them. These services know enormously more about each other than the public know about any of them. I think that it is time that politicians and ordinary citizens learn how these things function."

The professor has sent announcements of his course to places all over the world, including academies of social science in China and the USSR. "Just as if it was a traditional subject like chemistry or physics. Sixty research students, including twelve black and black beards and high Matt Rari blonde hair and high Matt Rari blonde hair, have attended the first two months of lectures, seminars and tutorials. It costs them £5 each.

Slump

There has, you will be surprised to hear, been a slump in the cost of Christmas. The World Wildlife Fund's annual computation of the cost of giving your true love gifts on the 12 days of Christmas, regularly featured here, shows that the total bill is down 10 per cent. Last year it was £4,905.88, 70 per cent up on 1973. This year you can have the lot for £3,928.

Part of the explanation is that pear trees have become a drug

on the market, £520 each last year, you can pick up now at less than £100. The partridges to go in them are 50p cheaper than last year, too.

Another saving is on the turtle-doves, £15 a pair last year but now back at their 1973 price of £5. The other birds on the gift list are in price. Geese, pink-footed, and swans, must, quoted by the Wildfowl Trust, are up by 20 per cent and 50 per cent respectively, while French hens (red jungle fowl) have doubled in price to be £10 each. Colly birds, which are blackbirds, are £20 the four against £8 last year.

The rest of the economizing owes less to the Government's wage restriction policy than it does to an act of idiosyncratic generosity by the Musicians' Union. Maids milking are now on a minimum agricultural wage of £6.10 for an eight-hour day, 60p up on last year, while the ladies dancing, from the corps of Ballet Rambert, have had a 20 per cent rise in price.

But the Musicians' Union will no longer quote an hourly rate for nine drummers drumming or 10 pipers piping. Instead they suggest you book two four-hour performances at £12 per person each. The saving on last year's hourly rate of £4.15 a man is substantial, and perhaps illusory, but it's the thought that counts.

Rewarding

Ben Pochee is four years old and, with his six-year-old cousin Dominic, survived for a week in the Tanzanian jungle. He leaves the bill of £4,905.88, 70 per cent up on 1973. This year you can have the lot for £3,928.

women's magazine, a handshake with Mary Wilson, and Harry Secombe's autograph.

Eight other children were to the Abbey to receive Women's Own "Children of Courage" awards from Mrs Wilson. They included Fiona Cummings, the seven-year-old from Newcastle who flew to Moscow for treatment for a rare eye disease, Michael Ellerington and Ian Watson who rescued a companion from drowning in a Hull dock, and Dawn Harding, who although only nine has had 19 operations for spina bifida and is confined to a wheelchair.

The Abbey choir sang Christmas carols, Secombe read out the citations, the Dean of Westminster said how glad he was that Mary would be able to have a few days with her family at Christmas, and six-year-old Karen Bradbury, who rescued her brother from a blazing bedroom, demanded to go to the toilet.

Clutching their scrolls and little golden birds set in perspex, the children were photographed with Secombe and Michael Crawford, and were whisked off to lunch at an hotel and a visit to a children's show at the Shaw Theatre. Meanwhile the hundred youngsters from London children's homes who had made up the congregation were led into an Aladdin's Cave behind the chapel and loaded to the gunwales with toys and giant packets of fruit gums. A box of Lego is worth 10 plastic trophies any day.

Big fish

Continuing our series on small publishers: Maurice Temple Smith has had the sort of success that every small independent publisher might dream of. He set up on his own seven years ago after directorial stints with

active than most in developing the bookcase. When he found his racks getting relegated lower and lower down the bookshelves of David and Charles, the publishers who were distributing for him, he founded Book Representation Ltd, a distribution company specially designed to work for firms of the size of his.

At the time of his growth Temple Smith says his personal imprint would have an annual turnover of £1m in six years' time. "But I have no intention of letting it happen," he says. "I have reached the point in fact the practical difficulties involved have been staggeringly slight."

Secker and Warburg and Eyre and Spottiswoode in London. The last man left in London that I could work for. I was very disillusioned with the whole big company thing and amalgamations which brought inefficiency and high cost and cut initiative and fun.

Now he publishes 20 books a year and the firm's turnover runs at a satisfactory two and a half times the capital employed. "We are better capitalized than many large firms in the amount we can spend on books, we have never turned anything down for lack of an advance, and we have always had the money to do what we thought best."

The explanation of this good fortune is partly that Temple Smith found an exceptional source of finance—an Indian conglomerate about the size of General Motors who wanted to invest a little in British publishing without controlling or interfering in the company.

Temple Smith does all the main editing himself. "I think publishing should be a cottage industry," see no point in bringing everybody to a glass box in Feltham, sit on the edge of their desks drinking coffee and getting in everybody's way."

He is something of a big fish in the small publishing pond, because he has been "more

For none of the recipients of life peerages yesterday can the news have come at a more propitious time than for Tom Driberg, the former Labour MP and journalist. He is still recovering in Kenya from a heart attack which put him in hospital in Nairobi and prevented him from attending the assembly of the World Council of Churches, for which he had travelled there.

Having made a good recovery he returned to Nairobi yesterday after a short holiday on Kenya's Indian Ocean coast at Mombasa to be handed Wilson's letter. Driberg's reaction was to describe it as a pleasant contrast to the run of bad luck he had recently encountered—and he said it had cheered him considerably.

It is not yet known when he will be able to take his seat in the Lords. To some extent this depends on the result of what he hopes will be his last contribution with his Nairobi decor

PHS



Cambridge.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Sighs of relief in property after MEP C

With the Chancellor's easing of credit restrictions having little effect on shares, it was left to company results, notably Distillers, to provide most of the features on the London stock market yesterday.

The FT Index spent most of the day just below its overnight level, but broke through it at 3 pm and closed 0.4 better, at 368.7. There was relief on the property pitch that the MEP C results were not as bad as feared and the sector now seems set for a solid advance.

One or two brokers like Coalite and Chemical Products, despite the recent disappointing news from Siebens (UK) wherein the group has a small stake. There are prospects elsewhere in the North Sea and the main business in smokeless fuel and chemicals is going well. There is gossip of a bid, but the group says it has not had an approach. Even so, the shares are firm at 21p.

The gilt-edged market remained firm. Some profit-taking developed in the afternoon, but all sections closed higher than the day. The short-dated "tap" price rose at the opening, encouraging the shorter end to move forward. There were some hopes for a reduction in Minimum Lending Rate today.

"Shorts" opened 1-16 point up. At one stage rises amounted to 1 or 1-16 point. But they were eventually trimmed back 1-32 or 1-16 point.

"Longs" were 1 point up at one stage, helped by modest buying. Business was at low

levels, but there was enough interest to justify the price rises. Eventually most stocks were 1 point higher.

The "blue chips" had a mixed day with Unilever up 4p to 420p and Reed International better by 5p to 247p, proving the best. But at the other end of the range Pilkington Brothers gave up 3p to 252p.

Under the lead of Distillers, 8p to the good at 158p after bullish interim results, drinks shares were a firm market with profits from HP Bulmer adding 5p to 93p and Vaux trading firmly at 232p.

Properties and foods likewise found their inspiration in results with MEPC 8p firmer to 77p (Land Securities rose 5p to 222p and Great Portland 6p to 222p in sympathy) while Cavendish climbed 6p to 135p, though SW Berisford lost 2p to 135p.

HC Jones lost 5p to 164p on Wednesday's gains which stemmed from the Barrow offer; Brown Brothers added 2p to 18p after Dana's minority bid; and Reillys firmed 5p to 76p in sympathy.

Stewart Plastics came back 3p to 81p after the dip caused by

the breakdown of the talks with Bowater while Aron Rubber, off 1p to 50p, sold its 3m shares in RFD through the market. This represents just over 22 per cent of the capital.

Inveresk Paper 64p shaded firmer on reports that terms may be on the way from St Regis Paper, the United States company.

Activity in the shares of London & Overseas Freighters (Lois) has been put down to takeover speculation. Close market followers of the company, however, dismiss this as improbable. But they do suggest that Lois may consider a move of domicile soon—possibly to Switzerland.

Other features included Barclays Bank 303p and Midland Bank 295p, up 8p and 10p in a strong sector, and Thorn 5p to 310p and Gammie 3p to 89p, all aided by the Chancellor's new proposals.

United Scientific shot up 12p to 82p after results, while Hoover gained 1p to 35p. Matthew Hall 1p to 117p and Ilwington Morris 1p to 25p in the ordinary.

Charterhouse edged firmer to 52p.

Equity turnover on December 17 was £73.91m (12,840 bargains). Active stocks yesterday were: Distillers, MEPC, ICI, Trafalgar House, BSI, United Scientific, Royal Insurance, Shell, Glaxo, BOC Int, Beecham and Grand Metropolitan.

Latest dividends

Company	Ord	Year	Pay	Year's	Prev
(and par value)		ago	date	total	year
Baker Perkins (50p) Int	1.5	1.5	12/1	—	3.25
S. & W. Berisford (25p) Fin	1.5	1.5	2/1	5.9	5.54
Stronach (50p) Int	0.7	0.7	2/2	—	—
Brunner (25p) Fin	1.46	1.34	—	2.59	2.42
Centenary (25p) Int	0.93	0.87	10/2	—	2.24
Cavendish (25p) Int	1.46	1.34	17/3	—	3.87
Century (25p) Int	1.1	1.1	—	0.78	1.09
Charterhouse (25p) Fin	2.17	2.17	—	3.05	3.05
Deans (25p) Int	1.89	1.77	25/2	1.89	1.77
Distillers (10p) Fin	2.5	2.5	27/2	1.5	5.37
Dom Holdings (10p) Int	1.1	1.06	5/2	1.73	1.62
Eucalyptus (10p) Int	1.3	1.3	5/2	—	3.23
Euromat (25p) Int	1.3	1.3	—	—	—
Howard Tenens (20p) Int	0.74	0.74	12/2	—	5.28
Ilwington Morris (20p) Int	0.28	0.28	2/1	—	1.89
ICI (25p) Int	1.23	1.23	—	—	3.93
Norton & Wright (10p) Int	1.06	1.06	28/11	—	3.0
Petrow (10p) Int	2.5	1.63	23/1	7*	5.08
Plyma (10p) Int	0.44	0.44	—	—	—
Rothmans Int (12 1/2p) Int	0.5	0.5	29/1	1.65	1.32
Stenochem (25p) Int	1.92	1.75	15/2	3/8	3.12
Trans-Oceanic (25p) Fin	2.6	2.3	15/2	3.65	3.25
Unilever (25p) Int	1.2	1.2	—	—	—
Utd Scientific (25p) Fin	1.78	1.75	12/4	2.61	2.45
Vaux Breweries (25p) Int	3.9	3.35	5/2	—	12.8

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross, multiply the net dividend by 1.54. * Forecast.

Rand Selection Corporation Limited

(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

Extracts from the review by the Chairman, Mr. G. W. H. Relly

Consolidated net equity earnings for the year ended 30th September 1975 increased to R48 101 000 from R43 911 000 for the previous financial year. Earnings a share for the year amounted to 114.5 cents on the marginally increased ordinary share capital. This figure compares with 113.6 cents a share for the year ended 30th September 1974 which was adjusted to reflect that profits of the Rand Selection Insurance Holdings Limited (RSI) group of companies had accrued during only a part of the year.

Rand Selection's investment in the gold mining industry continues to represent the major part of its portfolio and remains its principal source of investment income in spite of the decline in the market valuations and pre-devaluation earnings of nearly all gold mines in recent months. Despite the sharp decline of the dollar price of gold in September this year, the average during the Corporation's latest financial year was \$169 an ounce, 20 per cent above that of the previous year.

As a result of this relatively high average price, and sales of gold from reserves equivalent to approximately 1.5 per cent of production, the industry's revenue increased by 9.8 per cent despite a further fall in production of nine per cent. These results were affected only marginally by the 17.9 per cent dividend reduction on 20th September but the change in parity does mean an effective increase of nearly 22 per cent in the Rand proceeds of a dollar's worth of gold which will obviously be of considerable immediate benefit to the gold mining industry. Inflationary increases in working costs and capital expenditure have, however, had a marked effect on the profitability of the mines and with the current uncertainties regarding the short-term future of the gold price and continuing cost pressures, the efforts being made to increase productivity assume critical importance for the future of the industry.

In assessing the present uncertain state of the gold market it has to be remembered that this is not the first time during the upward movement of the past few years that the price has suffered reversals. In each of the last three years something similar has occurred. In contrast, however, the most recent decline was not a typical reaction to the rapid rise of an intensely speculative market, but followed a period of relatively stable prices which were maintained after adjustment to the extraordinary upsurge of late 1974. At that time expectations related to gold ownership by United States citizens in conditions of growing alarm about world economic inflation propelled the price to new heights.

During early 1975 the world economic slowdown had an adverse effect on fabrication demand. There was, however, a strengthening of investment demand, especially for Krugerrand, at a time of a weak dollar and declining interest rates, and this was reflected by the relative firmness of the price in spite of the two U.S. gold auctions in January and June. Nevertheless, the unusual combination of a downturn in economic activity that was deeper than had been anticipated, and of a continually strengthening dollar after March, together with the subsequent upturn in interest rates as the battle against inflation took priority over economic growth, inevitably

Analysis of general investment portfolio and general investment income

	Value of investment	Investment income	Value of investment	Investment income
	percentage	percentage	1975	1974
By prime source:				
Mining—Gold and uranium	58	68	63	60
Diamonds	2	8	9	10
Copper	2	2	2	4
Platinum	2	2	2	2
Coal	3	2	2	2
Other	4	3	2	2
Industrial	14	11	15	13
Property	2	2	2	2
Financial	7	4	3	3
	100	100	100	100
Geographical:				
South Africa	68	80	92	90
Rest of Africa	4	4	4	7
Europe	3	2	2	2
North America	4	3	2	1
Australia	1	1	—	—
	100	100	100	100

affected investment demand and the price weakened perceptibly in August. In these circumstances, with growing awareness of the implications of Russian grain requirements, it is hardly surprising that the apparent consensus on gold, as announced in the International Monetary Fund Interim Committee's communiqué, should have led to a further weakening in price, whereas previous statements of similar intent had been shrugged off by the market. It was precisely because world conditions were so depressed that contrary to the usual cynical expectations, understanding could be reached on the question of gold and IMF quotas, although a solution remains to be found on the crucial question of currency exchange rates.

It can be argued that the Interim Committee's accord represents a victory for the American anti-gold lobby, although I believe that the reverse is the case and that it is really a step towards the remobilisation of the metal as a reserve asset. Admittedly the threat of the disposal of 25 million ounces of gold and the restitution of a further 25 million ounces to member countries from IMF stocks is a potential supply factor of considerable magnitude. Against this, however, must be set the vested interests of central banks which hold gold, and the fact that they will be free, subject to certain limitations, to engage in transactions at market related prices. Furthermore, the importance of gold has been enhanced by the proviso that its sale, under the first proposal, to yield the specified profit of \$2.5 billion to

the fund formed for the benefit of the developing countries implies a theoretical floor price of approximately \$142 an ounce.

There are, moreover, formidable legal and technical obstacles to be overcome before the IMF's stated objectives can be fulfilled, quite apart from the ambiguous implications of the discussions to be held next January on the issue of exchange rates.

The power of governments to exert their will against gold has been enhanced by the prolongation of the international recession, and the consequent strength of the U.S. balance of payments. The so-called understanding on gold is itself a child of its times and it is probable that its ostensibly unfavourable implications will fade as the underlying conditions change. Indeed, recent developments have already begun to suggest that this is the case. It may, of course, take longer for the gold price to recover substantially from the present setback than it has from others. I have every confidence, however, that its future is fundamentally secure and we may well find, after a period, that gold's role in the international monetary system has been further strengthened.

Preoccupations with energy sources of all kinds continued during the year. Although no commercially viable oil deposits have yet been discovered in South Africa, the country is fortunately endowed with significant coal reserves and, with the increased price of crude oil, both domestic and export demand for coal has strengthened considerably. The coal mining industry still suffers, however, from low profit margins, and unless the formula for the controlled price of domestic coal is altered to permit investors to earn a sufficiently attractive return on their capital, it will be difficult to attract the additional finance needed for major expansion, modernisation and the introduction of the five-day working week. In order to create a substantial vehicle for coal mining investment, Amalgamated Collieries of South Africa Limited, The Coronation Collieries Limited, and South African Coal Estates (Witbank) Limited, are to merge their activities, subject to their shareholders' approval, with those of the unlisted companies Anglo Power Collieries (Proprietary) Limited, Blesbok Colliery Limited, New Largo Colliery Limited and Transvaal Coal Corporation Limited. The vehicle for the merger is the Verreiging Estates which will be renamed Anglo American Coal Corporation Limited (Amcoal).

The creation of Amcoal will provide its shareholders with the opportunity to hold a long-term investment of considerable growth potential in coal resources. It has been agreed that the new company may exercise, free of consideration, the approval in principle granted to Anglo American Corporation of South Africa Limited by the South African Government to export 100 million tons of bituminous coal over a 20-year period. Anglo American has also undertaken to ensure that sufficient bituminous coal reserves in the Transvaal will be made available from present and any future reserves held by group companies to satisfy Amcoal's future requirements. Amcoal's business will thus be well balanced between the price-controlled but stable domestic market and the more profitable but volatile export activities.

Rand Selection's energy resource interests are, of course, not vested only in coal. Through Amgold and directly, the Corporation has interests in a number of uranium producers including Vaal Reefs Exploration and Mining Company Limited, Western Deep Levels Limited and President Brand Gold Mining Company Limited as well as The Afrikaner Lease Limited with its uranium potential. At present projected uranium production is adequate to meet demand until the end of this decade. In the early 1980s however, it is predicted that demand could exceed supply and as a result, world uranium prices have already improved considerably.

The Corporation is also interested in the oil and gas industry through its investment in Minerals and Resources Corporation Limited (Minroco) and its indirect interest in Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company Limited (Hudbay). Through a subsidiary, Francana Oil and Gas Limited (Francana), Hudbay owns the controlling interest in Trend Exploration Limited (Trend), an oil and gas exploration company based in the United States, in which Minroco owns the balance of the stock. Trend has oil and gas producing properties in the United States and Canada, and in Indonesia is participating in a joint venture with the State oil company of that country. It is conducting an active exploration programme in the United States as well as in the North Sea, Celtic Sea, Italy, Paraguay and Cameroon. Both Francana and Western Decalita Petroleum in a number of areas has a substantial interest, own producing and exploratory oil and gas properties in Canada and the United States and are well placed to participate in the search for new sources of oil and gas through their North American and international exploration programmes.

In 1974 Rand Selection acquired Schlusser Insurance and Institutional Holdings Limited (SII) and SII has since been renamed Rand Selection Insurance Holdings Limited (RSI). This past year is the first in which the Corporation's financial results include those arising from an entire year's trading by its subsidiary. The major investments are in the life assurance field, with a per cent holding in the equity of African Eagle Life Assurance Society Limited. The African Eagle group had total assets at 30th September 1975 exceeding R417 million, compared with R355 million at 30th June 1975 and R94 million ten years ago. For the first time, combined premium and investment income this year has risen to more than R100 million annually by reaching R124 million compared with less than R90 million in 1965. This is a remarkable record and the group is well placed to continue this pattern and increase its share of the country's assurance market.

During the year negotiations were entered into with Barclays National Bank Limited (Barclays) as a result of which that company, the largest banking organisation in South Africa, acquired the entire issued share capital of Wesbank by means of an issue of shares. This transaction has resulted in Rand Selection and associates becoming Barclays' principal South African shareholders. As a result of these arrangements it was agreed that the Corporation would receive one third of any profits or make good one third of any losses which might arise in the course of the closure of Wesbank's London branch.

S & W Berisford tops forecast

Justifying the confidence early last month, international food group S. & W. Berisford tops the forecast in the rights issue of a bumper £9.1m pre-tax with a 23 per cent jump to £9.33m. Turnover in the year to September 30 rose 12.4 per cent to £589.7m. The "available" jumped 15.6 per cent to £45.2m, and as indicated the total payout is lifted from 8.26p to 9.1p. Pre-tax profits rose 15.4 per cent to £4.63m at halfway, when Mr Norman Castle, chairman, expected progress to continue. The improved result for the year attributable partly to the re-shaping of several of the United Kingdom companies. In the first half, United Kingdom subsidiaries lost £1.2m, but profits for North America faded because of quieter conditions in commodities.

Charterhouse fails to offset bad first half

By Christopher Wilkins
The profits of the Charterhouse Group showed some recovery in the second half year after a dip of £1.8m to £1.47m in the first half, but the full year profits still ended well down from £7.85m to £5.10m. The recovery was primarily due to the revival in the group's manufacturing operations where Charcon, which had made a first half loss, pulled back to make a small profit for the year as a whole. Thanks to much improved performance at Newage Engineers and Alenco, the manufacturing downturn was restricted to £834,000 at £4.04m. The group's banking and financial activities suffered a sharper setback, however. Pro-

fits were down from £2.03m to £774,000. Charterhouse, Japhet maintained its operating profit, but profits from dealing in securities were well down. The group's other financial activities turned in a loss, mainly because there were no sales of properties held for dealing in Scotland. Profits were also lower in the development and venture capital business because of provisions against two French investments, but the distribution an insurance interests both turned in improved results. During the year the group reduced its borrowings from £45m to £39m. The net dividend is unchanged, although at the gross level it is up from 4.55p to 4.7p.

Baker Perkins' overseas spur

Against a loss of £297,000, Baker Perkins Holdings reports greatly improved profits before tax of £1.39m in the half year to September 30. These compare with pre-tax profits of £2.67m for the 15 months to March 31 last. Turnover moved from £25.4m to £31.5m. The latest six months showed some change in the pattern of business. Smaller United Kingdom sales were offset by bigger business overseas, especially in America and Australia. There was also a notable improvement in the volume and profitability of exports. Group borrowings have fallen by £1.3m since March 31, and liquidity remains sound. The reduction would have been greater but for the depreciation of sterling. Thanks to the low tax liability arising from previous tax losses, a loss of £408,000 gave way to a profit of £1.15m. The interim dividend is 2.31p gross against 2.24p.

Portugal. The two mills there have continued to operate. Contract fulfilment guarantees involving the wood-purchasing organisation, which amounted to £3.2m at the end of 1974, have now been cut to £1.7m.

Vaux cautious after sound start

Operating chiefly in the North-East, Yorkshire and Scotland, Vaux Breweries pushed up pre-tax profits in the six months to October 31 from £1.83m to £2.15m. Turnover rose from £21.4m to £28.4m. The profit was struck after finance charges of £558,000 against £507,000. The half-time payment rises from 5p gross to 6.01p. Mr Douglas Nicholson, chairman, says that turnover rose 35 per cent, reflecting a loss of summer, but inflation bit into margins. By far the largest increase in costs was the £2.8m in extra duties paid to the Government. It is hoped to maintain the final dividend at 14.6p though the immediate future is "uncertain".

share least 89 per cent to 8.57p, and the dividend goes up from 3.65p to 4.01p.

Ilwington, Morris stays in the black

A 10 per cent fall in interim pre-tax profits to £777,000 before tax and a forecast that the group would remain profitable came from Ilwington, Morris. The shares duly hardened. Turnover for the six months to September 30 rose from £41m to £43.5m, thanks mainly to exports and output overseas. The dividend rises from 0.41p gross to 0.43p though net profits were £471,000 against £611,000. Over the whole of last year pre-tax profits fell from a record £5.1m to £1.7m, as textiles slumped.

Howard Tenens slides into red

The news from Howard Tenens Services is gloomy. It slid into the red in the six months to September 30 and despite corrective steps a further loss in the second six months is likely. But a return to profit is forecast for the year to March 31, 1976. This export packer and maker of packing cases, pressings, and motor bodies, reports an attributable loss for the first half year of £384,000 against a profit of £554,000. Turnover was £18.7m against £19.3m. The interim dividend is 1.13p gross against 1p. The final will be considered when the full figures are available.

M. Hall buoyant

Industrial engineer Matthew Hall, reports pre-tax profits for the nine months to September 30 up from £1.21m to £1.57m. It also forecasts a record £2.5m compared with £2.12m for the year. The interim dividend rises from 1.96p gross to 2.21p gross. Engineering (with an investment in North Sea oil offshore contracts) did much better, and mechanical and electrical services should turn in record contributions.

H. Morris says AI bid withdrawn

Amalgamated Industrials' 60p a share bid for the remainder of Herbert Morris, the Loughborough crane maker, is "totally unacceptable", says Morris. It has been withdrawn pending the outcome of a Monopolies Commission finding. Morris says that the results for the year to November 2 (to be announced in February) will more than fulfil interim expectations of £762,000 before tax. AI is a subsidiary of Brynmor Finance, now being investigated by the Department of Trade. AI also bought a further 4.5 per cent of Morris in November, to add to its existing 31.1 per cent.

Eucalyptus cheer

While the second six months are not expected to be as good, Eucalyptus Pulp Mills has more than doubled its pre-tax profits for the half year to June 30 to £1.2m. Earnings a share are up from 8.2p to 17.9p, and the board has arranged for an unchanged dividend of 1.5p a share to be remitted from

Cope Allman warning

Underlying the warning in his annual statement a month ago, Mr L. J. Manson, who heads packaging, engineering, fashion and leisure group Cope Allman International, now looks for profits in the six months to November 31 of less than £2m against £3.78m. The second-half however should see a "positive" improvement, particularly in aerosol valves and cosmetic containers, the annual meeting was told.

United Scientific soars

After almost doubling pre-tax profit to £571,000, in the year to September 30, United Scientific Holdings, the optical, scientific and electronic equipment group is now looking for more than £1m this year. The group went up from £4.2m to £7.1m, and bank borrowings were eliminated. Indeed, a net overdraft was replaced by a £270,000 deposit. Earnings a

Petrow placing as profits take off

Reporting interim profits rocketing from £560,000 to £1.17m before tax for the first half—Petrow Holdings (generating sales, Kc) also announces a placing of 1.2m ordinary shares at 10p each, to raise £120m. Directors, families, Kc, hold 67 per cent of the equity and indicate that they would not have been able to take up their entitlement from a rights issue.

Sales for the half jumped from £4.39m to £5.05m. The dividend is 2.54p gross to 3.85p, and a total for 1975-76 of 10.8p against 7.75p is forecast. Treasury consent has been given. In spite of all this, the shares dropped a few points yesterday.

Bulmer to double profits

By Tony May
A sales gain of a fifth, a rise in productivity of more than a fifth, and an April price increase in the trading story from H. P. Bulmer for the six months to October 24. It meant that pre-tax profits soared from a restated £846,000 to £1.8m even though Bulmer simply maintained its share of a fast-growing market. As well as nearly doubling last year's interim profit, the latest figure is over 50 per cent ahead of the record £1.2m made over the whole of 1974-75, and the directors expect the current year to end with a doubled profit of about £2.4m. All this pushed

the shares up 5p to 93p yesterday.

Turnover for the half year jumped 45 per cent to £1.8m without extra interest charges. Naturally the summer helped sales but the board, under Mr Peter Porter, chairman, attaches equal importance to cider's cheapness against other drinks. The recent supply agreement with Grand Metropolitan Group has also been "particularly beneficial". Shareholders are to receive an interim dividend of 1.43p, against 1.3p gross on attributable profits of £842,000 against £324,000, and a maximum total dividend is forecast.

PLAIN SPEAKING ON GOLD

An outspoken analysis of some of the problems which have beset the price of gold over the year is given by Mr G. Relly, chairman of Rand Selection, in his annual review, published today.

ENIDPORT-GUNDY

With a further £28,000 spent in the past year on new investment and re-equipment, directors are confident that company ready to take advantage of any upturn in demand, "which will surely develop".

DANKS GOWERTON

Turnover for the half-year to September 30, £5.25m (£4.85m). Pre-tax profit, £382,000 (£347,000).

KEYSTONE INVESTMENT

Gross revenue before tax of £485,000 (£396,000) for year to October 31. Total payment, 6.53p (£5.7p gross).

PREMIER CONS OILFIELDS

On group sales up from £651,000 to £888,000 in half-year to end-September, pre-tax profits rose from £99,000 to £230,000, including other income of £124,000 (£52,000).

TEX ABRASIVES

Although turnover expanded from £1.44m to £1.7m in the half-year to September 30, profits before tax fell from £181,000 to £151,000. The board hopes profits will not be very much lower.

DANISH BACON

Exports between DBC and ESS-FOOD Export, Svinogterierne, Sølgøreforening, the exporting association of individual bacon factories in Denmark, two representatives of ESS-FOOD will shortly join the board of DBC.

WARNFORD INVY

Pre-tax profits £671,000 (£592,000), turnover £869,000 (£751,000) for year to June 24. Interim dividend 2.54p (1.85p). Earnings a share 3.35p (3.08p).

BTR SWISS PURCHASE

For 165m Swiss francs (about £3m) BTR has acquired Lovatoff, which will be renamed Lovatoff-BTR.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN LAND & EXPLORATION COMPANY LIMITED

(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

NOTICE TO HOLDERS OF SHARE WARRANTS TO BEARER

PAYMENT OF COUPON NO. 74
With reference to the notice of declaration of dividend appearing in the Press on 12th December, 1975 the following information is published for the guidance of holders of share warrants bearer.

The dividend of 22.5 cents per share will be paid on 15th December 1975, at the offices of the company, 6 & 8 Boulevard, Johannesburg. The dividend on bearer share warrants will be paid on or after 15th February 1976, against surrender of coupon No. 74 as issued.

(b) At the office of the following continental paying agents to holders of the company's share warrants for payment in appropriate local currency: Credit for Nord at Union Nat. 6 & 8 Boulevard, Johannesburg.

In respect of coupons lodged at the office of the continental paying agent the dividend payment will be made in South African currency in the local bank of the holder of the coupon. The dividend will be paid in the local bank of the holder of the coupon.

Coupons must be left at least four clear days for examination and must be accompanied by a statement of the holder of the coupon, signed by the holder, stating that the coupon is not a duplicate of any other coupon.

For and on behalf of THE SOUTH AFRICAN LAND & EXPLORATION COMPANY LIMITED, J. J. J. Janssen, Secretary.

Amount of dividend 22.5 cents. Less: South African non-resident shareholders' tax at 15% 3.375. Net: U.K. income tax at 30% on the gross amount of the dividend of 22.5 cents 4.500. 14.625.

European Law

Three publications designed to provide a comprehensive information service on EEC and other European law. Common Market Law Reports, European Law Digest, European Commercial Intelligence.

Your company is judged by the company it keeps.



BP in 1974

Sir Eric Drake reporting to shareholders

Substantial features from Sir Eric's Statement

1974 was a year of significant achievement for BP. The company's performance was judged by the company it kept. The statement highlighted the company's commitment to safety, environmental protection, and financial stability. Sir Eric Drake reported that the company had achieved a record profit of £1.4 million, a testament to the company's strong financial position and the quality of its products and services.

The British Petroleum Company Limited. April 4.

"Your Company is organised and equipped to maintain its leadership in its main product fields... and to ensure long term success and profitability"

THORN

Thorn Electrical Industries Limited. August 12.

Norwich Union

Extract from the Statement and Review for 1974 by Mr Desmond E. Longe M.C., F.R.S.

President and Chairman of the Norwich Union Insurance Group

The statement and review for 1974 highlighted the company's strong financial performance and its commitment to providing high-quality insurance services. Mr. Longe reported that the company had achieved a record profit of £1.4 million, a testament to the company's strong financial position and the quality of its products and services.

Norwich Union Insurance. May 2.

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Arbuthnot Securities Limited. November 1.

Ultramar Company Limited

Extracts from the Statement of the Chairman, Mr Campbell Nelson, and from the 1974 Annual Report

The statement and annual report for 1974 highlighted the company's strong financial performance and its commitment to providing high-quality products and services. Mr. Campbell Nelson reported that the company had achieved a record profit of £1.4 million, a testament to the company's strong financial position and the quality of its products and services.

Ultramar Company Limited. April 16.

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CHARTERHOUSE JAPHET

Standard Chartered Bank Limited. October 8.

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Mr. W. P. Capper, Chairman.

Capper-Neill Limited. June 11.

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ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec. 12, Dealings End, Dec. 24, Contango Day, Dec. 29, Settlement Day, Jan. 2
 of Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

The struggle simply to find a roof

by David Walker

Recent survey by the Council put the number of overseas students in London area at about 10,000.

They come to read degrees at London University, take technical qualifications at the polytechnics, for the Bar and become medical or certified accountants.

London attracts over 50 per cent of all overseas students to Britain and more than half of them are post-graduate. For the 40,000 students about 1,250 beds specifically provided for overseas students. Post-graduate students pose an even greater problem for the university and polytechnic accommodation services. They try vainly every September to cope with the influx of students at the end of the year, but the list of available beds in halls of residence, as they come often with family and need a room of their own, is not great.

The accommodation crisis faced by London University, the polytechnics and the independent charities such as the International Students House and the London House, is a rapidly changing background of the number of students of each country attending by sea students.

big change, for example, in 1972-73 when, for the first time, the number of foreign students over the number who came from the Commonwealth. A second was in 1974, when the number of students at polytechnics and independent colleges first exceeded the number at universities. In London there are more than 10,000 overseas students compared with nearly 10,000 at universities and independent colleges like the Royal College of Art.

Behind these shifts in the numbers is a pattern of movement away from undergraduate towards post-graduate students. Of all overseas students in universities in 1974 there were 15,451

post-graduate students and 10,177 undergraduate students. Ten years ago they were divided almost equally.

Such trends bring particular problems. With more foreign students, the one of familiarity with English becomes more acute. The committee representing British universities vice-chancellors recently began an examination of the tests administered to overseas students after doubts had been voiced about how well many students understood their lectures, particularly in the technical subjects.

Most obvious are the accommodation and social questions. A university medical officer wrote recently about the usefulness of a postgraduate being accompanied by his wife because it created a kind of "cultural microcosm" to protect against loneliness and isolation. He added, however, that wives and children needed special accommodation and welfare services which many educational institutions were not equipped to give.

With many students now going to such places as the Polytechnic of Central London, the City of London Polytechnic and other Inner London Education Authority colleges, the pressure on their own housing accommodation has built up.

People in the front line of the struggle to find a roof for the post-graduate who often arrive with unaccompanied wives and babies, such as Miss Gorbelle Reifensberg, London University's accommodation officer, and Mr Peter Hodges, lodgings officer at the Polytechnic of Central London, often have to compete for the available bed-sitting rooms and flats once their halls of residence are full.

Mr Hodges, who said he regretted that he had to compete with London University, emphasized the part played by good accommodation in a student's academic success. Worries about bringing space, money or family were sure ways to make the overseas post-graduate's academic task harder, he said.

In addition recent years of inflation have upset exchange control procedures for many of the developing countries. Students with fixed income have been known to find them-

selves penniless half way through the academic year.

Miss Reifensberg said: "There is a special need for the post-graduate who tend to be squeezed out of the predominantly undergraduate halls of residence. People in particular need are those at the Inns of Court, for whom no special accommodation is available, or those studying for less than a full academic year."

London University has a small number of furnished flats for married post-graduate students from Britain and overseas in Kensington, and houses such as the Nuffield College of Surgical Sciences, associated with the Royal College of Surgeons, have a number of short-stay flats for married post-graduate students from abroad without children. Likewise London University colleges such as the London School of Economics, King's College and Imperial College have residences, though not specifically for overseas students.

A recent development encouraged by the polytechnics and institutions like the City University which are desperate for accommodation for all their students in north London in setting up their own housing associations, often managing "short-life" housing available through local authorities.

For the bulk of overseas students, however, living in London is a long search through lists of flats and bed-sitting rooms, often in the suburbs. For such students the British Council's student centre in Portland Place can be a useful way of fighting isolation.

Temporary base in an hotel

Few students are fortunate enough to be offered accommodation at the same time as they get their place in a college. The accommodation agencies are not able to do much in advance of the student's arrival in Britain; landlords will not take a tenant they have not first seen: so the newly arrived student has to see rooms and meet landlords from a temporary base that could be a bed-and-breakfast private hotel.

For married students there are few places. International House, in Woolwich, for instance, which is run by an independent body, provides 29 self-contained flats for couples with one child and five double rooms for couples unaccompanied by children at rents extending from £36 to £59 a month.

Mr Tony Shaw, director of the International Students Trust, a charity like London House, gave a warning of the severe difficulties caused by separating families even for short periods of study abroad. His institution provides a residence for 130 men and women, a student centre and accommodation for 42 married couples, lays emphasis on the need to mix students of different subjects.

Difficulties for overseas students do not disappear once they have found accommodation. Mr Shaw pointed out a common hardship—the loneliness of wives. Married couples need privacy in their own self-contained flats, but there is a danger that a wife separated from British society by language becomes depressed.

In recent months all overseas students have had to contend with a barrage of criticism. From the academics themselves have come complaints of science and technology departments "having" too many "too many" foreigners, crowding out British students. Dr Keith Hampson, Conservative MP for Ripon, said last month that the numbers of overseas students were "reaching proportions" and called for a threefold increase in tuition fees.

As it is, accommodation charges vary to an extent that can rock the budgets of students from the developing world. Some halls are still a reasonable bargain. Lillian Penon Hall, in Talbot Square, run by London University, provides residence for all post-graduate students, charges £36.50 a month for a single room and £69.20 for a one-room flat with kitchen. Kings College Hall, in south-east London, open to all students from that college, charges £288 for a 30-week session for all meals and room.

The residences run by the charitable trusts tend to provide more recreational facilities than the university residences. The fees at International Students House, in Park Crescent, are £10.15 for a single room and £28.40 for a double room. London House is slightly dearer by comparison.

However, if he can afford the fees, an overseas student is likely to be attracted by the secure conditions offered by an "official" hall of residence situated in central London.

The author is on the staff of The Times Higher Education Supplement.



The communal dining hall.

A great place for remembering

Nikolaus Pevsner is decidedly offhand about the architecture of London House. Symmetrical southern front in which Sir Herbert Baker's motifs and faibles are only too noticeable, he says in his *London*.

You can see what he means. The mixture of knapped brick and stone, topped with roofs pierced by attic windows, gives the building the look of a heavyweight. The neo-Georgian lines lack the grace of the genuine Georgian buildings to be found in neighbouring streets. But Sir Herbert began his work 40 years ago, when architecture was struggling to emerge from the reinforced concrete jungle.

The inner quadrangle, partly bordered by a colonnaded walk and presided over by a bust of the founder, provides a patch of green and peace conducive to contemplation. In the oldest wing the dining hall has loftiness and a wealth of oak panelling, a reminder that the interior years were spacious in their way.

London House is a great place for memorial tablets; there is even one to commemorate a popular head porter. The most prominent, high on the outside of the south front, states the library was named after Sir Charles Parsons, once a governor of the house trust.

Sir Charles, best known for developing steam turbines for power stations and battleships, was a man of ideas. One was to sink a bore hole 12 miles into the earth; perhaps the scientists who hope to draw heat from beneath the earth's crust should study his proposal, although he expected the task to take 30 years.

When the trust first bought the site it was occupied by houses, and according to Brigadier E. E. Peppercorn, who wrote *The History of London House*, difficult negotiations became necessary when it was discovered a right of way existed through what is now the quadrangle. Some of the old buildings, which were used by officers from overseas, were destroyed during the last war.

continued from facing page they were researching was told: "The politics of protest in the Soviet Union and ancient hymns."

Men in single study bedrooms pay from about £2 a night to £3.25, depending on length of stay and type of accommodation. In the 1930s the same fee would have covered a week, breakfast and dinner included.

Rents of flats range from £42 to £105 a month. All fees charged are gone up sharply in the past two years and will rise again next year.

Even at these prices there is a planned deficit between fees charged and the running costs, without allowing for depreciation and maintenance of property. This deficit, described as an "invisible scholarship," is at present £200 a head each year. Residents not classified as strictly postgraduate students, such as those in transit or on sabbatical courses, are not subsidised. Short stay lettings enable rooms to be fully used during the changeover of long-term students.

Some married couples come from countries which do not allow them to bring sufficient money on which to live in Britain. Often the mother has to go out to work while her husband studies. To help them a nursery has been opened in the basement of the flats.

London House has a number of recreational rooms, including squash courts, while a hole in the basement marks the abandoned hope of installing a swimming pool. A simpler idea was a barbecue site in Mecklenburgh Square, round which the residential buildings are grouped. The trust had a deficit for the year ending in March of nearly £34,000, although more than half the money went on eradicating dry rot in some of the original Georgian property. In June Lord Seabrook, chairman of the governing council, said: "We have to face rising costs in every aspect of our activities."



The library is well used by residents.

This must have eased the task of later redevelopment, but the war was not so helpful in the case of property owned by the trust on the east side of Mecklenburgh Square. Although it received a direct hit, the ruling of the Royal Fine Art Commission was that the facade should be rebuilt.

No doubt this was expensive, but the restored flats do much to maintain the period charm of the square. Carriages and a boilerhouse under the flats have been skilfully concealed.

In 1957 women students and married couples who had previously lived in scattered houses were welcomed to their own neo-Georgian quarters. The latter, to the north of the square, was given the

name William Goodenough House, after the son of the founder. Two years ago another block of flats was added to the house.

The various buildings look on to Mecklenburgh Gardens, which is reserved for residents. Apart from losing their railings in wartime salvage drives, the gardens remain the centre of an area which a snob described 50 years ago as "highly respectable but not at all fashionable".

George Augustus Sala, a prolific journalist who had a house in the square in high Victorian days, was more enthusiastic. He told a friend: "It is under the friendly wing of the Governors of the Foundling Hospital. Northwest corner, no

thoroughfare, nice garden in rear, one of the oldest and the greenest of full-bottomed wiggled squares in front, and a shilling cab fare to one's offices and one's club."

It was at this house in 1881 that Sala received a message from *The Daily Telegraph*: "Please write a leader on Billingsgate and the price of fish, and start for St. Petersburg this evening." Tsar Alexander II had been assassinated.

The Foundling Hospital once owned the land on which the trust properties stand. A legacy of those days is Coram Fields, the most elegant playground in London, which makes a pleasant outlook to the west of London House.

P. O'L.

Escape of hundreds from a lonely life

"At the same time the income from our investments has been substantially reduced because we have spent £500,000 of capital in the past few years on building much-needed additional flats. We still have considerable reserves, but they are steadily running down."

One idea for reducing costs was integration of the segregated residents of the two houses, London and William Goodenough. Predictably, the men were in favour, the women against. They wished to preserve the character and traditions of William Goodenough, which was a separate trust until 1965.

However, the dining hall in that house has been closed, a move expected to cut the present catering de-

ficit of £40,000 by more than a quarter. The women can dine in London House.

Another economy comes from the boilerhouse underneath Byron Court, on the east side of the square. In addition to heating the various trust buildings it serves a neighbouring school for £10,000 a year.

On top of the running deficit the trust faces mounting maintenance costs on property, now valued at £8m without the price of the land. Looking to 1980, the trustees are launching a jubilee appeal. It opens in the United States, which has sent 1,000 students to London House over the years.

This will be followed by a drive for donations next year in Britain and other countries. Shock troops of

this fund-raising are likely to be members of the London House Fellowship, the old boys' association.

Soon the work may enter a new phase. Many graduates come to London because they cannot obtain special training for higher qualifications in their own countries. But more nations are developing advanced educational systems.

Future residents of London and William Goodenough houses may increasingly be older people making short visits to carry out research and increase their experience. But those in charge of the trust believe that they will still need the same informal yet collegiate atmosphere for study and relaxation.



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